



Three Baptists from South Africa examine a copy of the BAPTIST RECORD as they visited in the publication office last week. From the left they are Chris Smith, a deacon in Noordgesig Church, Johannesburg; Elbon Noble, pastor of the church; and Malvoory Peffer, pastor of Parkside Church, East London. Their Mississippi tour host during a visit in the state was James Boyd, right, a student at Mississippi Baptist Seminary.

By Don McGregor
Among 70 South African Baptists now on a tour of Southern Baptist churches and agencies in the United States are six who have been in Mississippi. Five of the South Africans who visited Mississippi are pastors, and one is a deacon in one of the churches.

Two of the pastors and the deacon toured the Baptist Building last week and stopped by the Baptist Record for a visit. They were Elbon Noble, pastor of Noordgesig Baptist Church, Rosmont Baptist Church, and Newclare Baptist Church in Johannesburg; Chris Smith, a salesman and a deacon in Noordgesig Baptist Church; and Malvoory Peffer, pastor of Parkside Baptist Church in East London.

They were being shown about the state by James Boyd, a student at Mississippi Baptist Seminary. The other South Africans who came to Mississippi are George Nqamlane, who was visiting at Sophia Sutton Assembly near Prentiss; Edward Bolton, who was engaged in services during the week at First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs; and Theo Pass, who was engaged in services at Parkway Baptist Church in Jackson.

All of the South Africans left Mississippi to go

Houston, Texas, for a seminar and then they were to visit other points in the nation including Kansas City, Indiana, and the Home Mission Board.

Generally, South Africa is divided into three racial groups. The population is made up of 4.5 million whites, 3 million coloureds, and 18 million blacks. Baptist work is to be found among all of these groups, through none of it is Southern Baptist related. The Southern Baptist Convention has no missionaries in the Republic of South Africa.

Of the 70 Baptists who came on the tour of the United States, 65 are white, four are coloured, and one is black. Bolton and Pass are white, Smith, Noble, and Peffer are coloured, and Nqamlane is black.

Smith, Noble, and Peffer spoke in several National Baptist churches in Mississippi during their visit to the state.

Noble spoke in chapel at the Baptist Building on Friday morning.

Smith, Peffer, and Noble paid their own way for the visit. It is likely that they were the only ones to pay their own expenses entirely. The other coloured pastor went to South Carolina, and his host church paid his expenses. Expenses for the black pastor were paid by the Baptist Union of South

Africa, and the local white churches in South Africa paid on the expenses for their pastors to varying degrees.

Noble gets no salary from any of the three churches where he is pastor. He teaches in addition to being a pastor. Peffer is a full-time pastor. Smith had to take on some construction work in addition to his sales job in order to get enough money to make the trip. Noble and Peffer borrowed the money from lending agencies.

The coloured race in South Africa began about 300 years ago. When the Dutch arrived in South Africa in 1652 there were only blacks living there. They began to intermarry, and the coloured race was the result. The coloureds are still the minority race and mostly to be found in the province of the Cape of Good Hope, called the Cape Province. Three-fourths of the coloured population of South Africa is in the Cape Province, Peffer said; and the Baptist work is strongest there. Peffer's pastorate is in this province, though in the eastern sector. The main concentration of Baptists in South Africa is in the western area of the Cape Province. Peffer's coloured church is fortunate in that it has its own building. Many of them do not, though a number of

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The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Published Since 1877

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1977

Volume CI, Number 7

Bible Conference Focuses On Versions, Charismatics

The Bible, book of authority for Southern Baptists, will be focus of attention for a two-day conference, meeting in Jackson, March 28-29.



Bates attention to both Bible study and study of the Bible.

The statewide Mississippi Baptist Bible Conference will meet at Jackson's Calvary Baptist Church, 1300 W. Capitol, giving

Five keynote speakers from around the SBC will deliver addresses on the subject, "What the Bible Says..." Completing the sentence themes will be Carl Bates, pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C., who will speak on "What the Bible Says About the Greatness of God."

Robert Naylor, president of Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., will talk on "...the Experience of Reconciliation." Ray Summers, chairman of Baylor University's Bible Department, will speak on "...Reward."

Clyde Francisco, professor of Old Testament interpretation, Southern

Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will speak on "...the Beginnings." And Landrum Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary, will talk on "...About Christ the Son of God."

Two panels, one convening Tuesday morning, the other Tuesday evening, will discuss a couple of the more controversial areas of Baptist doctrine. Subjects are, respectively, "Translations and Versions of the Bible," and "Our Attitude Toward the Charismatic Movement." Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the convention board, will chair both panels.

Claude Rhea, director of the department of music at Samford Univer-

sity, Birmingham, Ala., will lead the music for the conference.

Soloist will be Martha (Mrs. Hoke) Branham of Dallas, Tex. Pianist will be Cynthia Carpenter, Moscow, Tenn.

Other women on the program will lead bible character conferences on women in the Bible. Mrs. Grace Chavis of Plantation, Fla., will discuss Isaac and Rebekah's "Fascinating Couplehood." Mrs. J. O. Williams of Nashville, Tenn., will talk on Mary and Martha's "Contrasting Personalities." And Jester (Mrs. Ray) Summers will speak on Ruth, "An Ancestor of Jesus."

Meeting simultaneously with the evening sessions of the Bible conference will be a special Youth Bible Conference, on Monday and Tuesday evenings. They meet in the church's Family Life Center from 6:45 to 9:15 p.m. Larry Salter of the MCB staff, will lead those sessions.

A "Bibleland" banquet will be held in the church's fellowship hall, at 5:15 p.m., March 29. Only 250 tickets are available at \$3.50 each.

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Acteens Attend Queens' Court

By Marilyn Hopkins
"His World... Our World" was the theme this past weekend for the state wide Acteens Queens' Court held at Camp Garaywa, March 11-13. The theme was carried out through Bible study, individual and group sharing with home and foreign missionaries and mission information.

Throughout the weekend the 220 Acteens and their leaders were challenged to prepare themselves spiritually, mentally and emotionally to face the world in which they live.

Marjean Patterson, Executive Secretary, Mississippi WMU said that through the reading of books on missions and about the lives of missionaries the Acteens could learn how God has called others into His service, the trials and temptations they faced, and the life of happiness they lived by serving others.

"His World... Our World" was shared by foreign missionaries Charles and Indy Whitten, Spain, as they shared about the exciting news of religious freedom in Spain. Home missionaries David and Brenda Myers, shared about the work in the area of Christian Social Ministries in Jackson, and Rodney and Susie Webb, shared about the opportunities now available here in Mississippi among language groups. The girls also heard from the 1976 BSU summer missionary to Liberia, Janie Boykin.

Mrs. Joy Pitts, Acteens leader, Houston, Texas was the special guest for the meeting. She told of the many advantages of subscribing to and reading of the Acteens magazine ACCENT. She also told how Acteens could become involved in direct evangelism as a personal experience of witnessing one-to-one.

The music, fun, and special activities for the Acteens were led by Paula Smith, a student at William Carey College. One of the highlights at the Saturday evening banquet, "Patches of Joy" was a "Washboard Band" from Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton. They were followed by an inspirational moment by Mrs. Pitts as she shared about the "Joy of Being Acteens in God's World."

During the weekend five Acteens were recognized for having achieved the highest level of achievement in Studiaid, Service Aide. Each of the girls had to complete 10 activities in the Service Aide level. The Service Aides attending Aides were: Susan Ezell, Calvary, Greenwood; Debbie Walker, First, Louisville; Talitha Edwards, First Grenada; Marsha Nestor, First Coldwater; Debbie Smith, Tinsley, Yazoo City.

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The Computer Strikes Again

A front-page box in last week's issue was used to point out that a computer had violated accepted Southern Baptist terminology by printing "Board" of Deacons. In the same issue was another computer goof, this one on the editorial page. Baptist Record type is set by sophisticated, computerized equipment. The editorial page is always the most carefully screened of all in proofreading. Nevertheless, in the editorial, "The Fight Pays Off," the word "help" was misspelled. This statement will not repeat the word used. Interested readers can find it.

Pray Film Has Greatest Viewing Audience: Stevens

By Robert O'Brien
NEW YORK (BP) "I was brought to tears at least a dozen times by this powerful and graphic film," declared the president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission after he emerged from a six-hour preview showing here of a controversial television film on Christ.

Paul M. Stevens of Fort Worth made that comment in the wake of complaints from across the country from people fearing remarks made by the director of "Jesus of Nazareth" indicated that the film would downgrade the divinity of Christ.

The film, which some earlier reports misnamed "The Life of Christ," will be aired in two parts on NBC in prime time on Palm Sunday, April 3, and Easter Sunday, April 10, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. each night Eastern Standard Time. Initial samplings by the major networks have indicated "Jesus of Nazareth" may exceed the all-time viewing audience of "Roots."

"Although I can't speak for Southern Baptists, I think Christians all over

America should pray that 'Jesus of Nazareth' will have the greatest viewing audience possible, because of the profound effect it could have on bringing people to a personal knowledge of Jesus as Saviour and Lord," Stevens told Baptist Press.

Stevens, one of a number of religious leaders invited to the filming, declared that it was "unthinkable that persons who have been attacking the showing of the film funded by General Motors could take such a firm, vehement, position against something about which they did not have all the facts."

(That criticism, in fact, is believed to be the reason General Motors withdrew as a sponsor after investing some \$19 million in the film's development, although GM denies it withdrew for that reason. The network will run the film, despite the absence of GM.)

"It wasn't perfect," Stevens said of the film, "There were some things I would have changed, but they are not consequential to the person of Christ, the Saviour and the Messiah. Over and over and over again, Christ is pre-

sented in the film by his friends and his enemies as Jesus, Son of God, the Saviour of the world."

Stevens noted that as a Baptist he would have portrayed Jesus' baptism by immersion. "There are millions of people in the Christian family who do not demand total immersion and the director, G. Franco Zeffirelli, chose to present the baptism by 'pouring' Stevens cited, among several examples of things he would change.

"This film is not the life of Christ," he adds. "If so it would be obliged to carry every incident in the four gospels. But its primary source is the gospel of John. The gospel of John does not present every miracle Jesus performed. Neither does the film."

"But the miracles that it does present are presented with great spirituality and powerful realism," Stevens said. "The film presents Jesus as the Son of God, the Saviour. It powerfully, graphically portrays the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ."

Earlier, Zeffirelli was quoted by Bob Jones University publication, Faith Magazine, as saying, "Of course the public is going to be annoyed that I am destroying their myths... yet in view of the constant reinterpretation of Jesus' life and the tone of our contemporary society, I believe the changes which I have made are valid."

A spokesman for Collins World, which is publishing a companion hardback book, "Jesus of Nazareth," said the quote from Zeffirelli was picked up, out of context, from an interview in Modern Screen in which the director referred to the myths "which were propagated and strengthened over the centuries by artists such as Michelangelo and Bernini."

Zeffirelli was speaking in the context of Italian Catholicism about medieval artistic interpretations of Christ which had depicted Christ only as a holy being wearing a halo and overlooking his human qualities." John Horner of Cleveland, a vice-

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BSU Training Retreat Nears

The spring Baptist Student Union meeting, known as Leadership Training Conference (LTC) meets at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, April 1-3.

Aimed at training BSU officers, all Baptist students are invited to participate in the training sessions. The LTC begins at 5:45 p.m., April 1, and ends with lunch on Sunday. Out-of-state speakers include Frank Horton, BSU director for Louisiana State University; Jan Daehnert, associate in the Division of Student Work, Baptist General Convention of Texas; and Jim Moore, BSU director for University of New Orleans and Charity Hospital School of Nursing.

The program is sponsored by the MCB Department of Student Work, Ralph Winders, director.

Pictured (top to bottom) are: Daehnert, Moore, and Horton.



Looking In On Gulfshore Progress

Work is progressing on the \$3.3 million Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at Henderson Point, Mississippi near Pass Christian. The facility includes a protected harbor, a docking area, and sand beaches as well as modern accommodations for meetings, seminars and groups. The completion date has been set for Fall of 1977. (Photo by Chauncey Hinman)

BJCPA Commends Rights Stand, Opposes IRS Church Definition

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs commended President Carter for his emphasis on human rights and commitment to nuclear disarmament during his semiannual meeting here.

Representatives from eight national Baptist conventions and conferences, including the Southern Baptist Convention, also laid the groundwork for action seeking reversal of a controversial regulation by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on its definition of an "integrated auxiliary" of a church, formally protested a decision by the

Tennessee Supreme Court upholding that state's prohibition against ministers seeking public office, and attended a congressional fellowship breakfast in the U. S. Capitol.

In its commendation of the President, the Baptist Joint Committee quoted from his inaugural address on human rights and disarmament: "Our commitment to human rights must be absolute... and we will move this year a step toward our ultimate goal—the elimination of all nuclear weapons from this earth."

According to the Baptist body's

statement, the President "has clearly sought to protect and to defend human rights at home and abroad. He has also initiated talks and has undertaken actions which could halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons so as to bring about worldwide arms limitations."

Noting these efforts, the statement commended the President and pledged "prayerful support of continued efforts to achieve a world of freedom, justice and peace."

G. Hugh Wamble, professor of church history at Midwestern Baptist

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South African Baptists Visit State

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coloured churches in western Cape Province have buildings through the aid of some white churches. None of Noble's churches has a building, though one is in the planning stage at Noordgesig.

Noble said he came to the United States for two reasons. He hopes to learn some Southern Baptist ways of organization, administration, and so forth with churches; and he hopes to enlist some financial aid for the coloured churches.

Due to organizational structures, the coloured churches do not receive much help in South Africa. Only recently a fund was established for aid to coloured churches called the Alliance Baptist Fund. This fund is the hope for a building for the Noordgesig church.

Baptist work is in the pioneer stage, Noble said, for coloured churches. It is only about 25 years old. In his province of Transvaal there are 165,000 African coloureds and no full-time Baptist worker for them. He lives in Johannesburg, where there are 91,000 coloureds and no full-time Baptist worker among them.

The umbrella organization of Baptists in South Africa is the Baptist Union of South Africa. It is made up predominantly of English-speaking white churches. Any church may belong regardless of race. The English-speaking white churches, however, have no other associational affiliation. In addition there is an association of Afrikaans-speaking white churches called the ABK, and the South African Baptist Alliance, which is the association for coloured churches. These coloured churches may be made up of either English or Afrikaans speaking people. These associations are affiliated with the Baptist Union.

A sister body to the union is the African Baptist Missionary Society, called the convention. These are the black churches. They are controlled by the union and are the recipients of missionary efforts of the union. The coloured churches, on the other hand, are autonomous. Though affiliated with the union, they are not a part of the white group because they have their own association. But because they are affiliated with the union they receive no financial assistance. The union aids the black churches

in buying property, constructing buildings, and paying salaries.

The Houston church where Noble will visit has contributed to the Alliance Baptist Fund and is responsible for the hopes for a building at Noordgesig. The Alliance Fund was begun by the Alliance (or coloured) churches. Money sent to the union and specified for the Alliance Fund will be used for the coloured churches, Noble said.

Economic conditions change from province to province, the pastors related. Housing conditions in Transvaal are mostly what is called sub-economic and generally no higher than "economic." Conditions in the Cape generally are at least "economic" and mostly referred to as "ownerbuilt," which is the highest strata of the working people.

Noble is president of the South African Baptist Alliance. Each of the three said the trip to the United States was worth the money, even if they did have to provide the expenses themselves.

Pray For Film Audience

(Continued from page 1)

president of Collins World, told Baptist Press. He had no intention of downgrading Christ's unquestionable divinity.

Horne quoted from the March issue of Cultural Information Service, an art/media and popular culture review for leaders in education and religion, in which he said Zeffirelli said:

"Christians have always had no problem accepting Christ as Holy, as God. But they always have had problems accepting Him also as a human being at the same time. I want to dust off all the sand that has encrusted the character of Christ after too many story book interpretations and parochial films."

Zeffirelli, Horne said, had drawn many Italian Catholic complaints in a European showing, because he had depicted Mary, the mother of Christ, as a human undergoing the agonies of childbirth, rather than as "an immaculate being who could not suffer."

Horne further quoted Anthony Burgess who wrote the "Jesus of Nazareth" screenplay as saying: "In our television poem, we want to restore to our culture the strength, the power, the intensity, the gigantic intellect and the passion of Jesus Christ, Son of God."

Student Mission Fund Aids Special Projects

In addition to the 47 college students the state Baptist Student Union is sending on summer missions (as reported in last week's Baptist Record) the state BSU has set aside funds for special mission work trips to be taken during the 1976-77 school year.

Work trips approved by the MCBF Department of Student Work may obtain from the mission fund 30 percent of the trip up to \$700.

Some of the schools taking advantage of this fund which totals \$7,800 this year are the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi College in Clinton, and Mississippi State University in Mississippi State.

Over the Thanksgiving holidays USM students took two mission trips. Louis Farmer, BSU director took five students to the University of Cincinnati where they led in worship services at a local church and did "help" team ministries, by setting up a book table on campus, contacting potential BSU members.

Associate director at USM, Skip Noble, took seven students to Ohio University in Athens working on a "help" team, leading services at FBC,

Athens, manning a coffee and tea table for international students on campus, and witnessing and sharing with students.

"Help" teams visit campuses with weak BSUs to help develop campus ministries. Both groups stayed five days.

More recently, from Feb. 25-March 2, Farmer and his wife Etta Lee, led 10 students to New Orleans for a work trip. They did repair on the Baptist Seamen's Center operated by John Vandercook, and did structural repairs to Vandercook's home, which for many years served as the center of operations.

The students also visited on ships docked in New Orleans, touring the city with seamen. Steve Entekin, a student majoring in architectural technology, commented on his experience there, where, among other things, he helped form up and poured concrete steps, "I'm more comfortable with manual type things," he said. "It's the little bit of gift I can give."

Mississippi College is just returned from their mission trip to New York

City. They worked on two projects there March 13-18. Bradley Pope, campus minister worked with 23 students who did painting, carpentry work, plumbing and after school Vacation Bible Schools on New York's lower east side and in Harlem.

Mississippi State University sent two groups out during its March 5-12 spring break. Irrel Harrison, BSU director, took 12 students on a singing tour of Michigan State University in East Lansing, and Central State University in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. The group, "Fishermen," sang concerts each day of the trip and at Michigan State, set up a book table for meeting students. They sang contemporary religious music and gave testimonies during the concerts.

Another group went to Charlotte, N. C., for an inner city work project. Six students, led by Mel Mann, a student, helped in neighborhood cleanup and improvement, plus gave verbal witness to residents. Paul Larsen, Baptist Chaplain at UNCC, coordinated the project which included North Carolina Students, too.

BJCPA Commends Human Rights Stand

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Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., was appointed to chair a committee which will recommend strategy to combat IRS regulations on "integrated auxiliaries" of a church, which attempt to define the ministries of a church.

Also appointed to the committee were Hollis W. Barber, professor of political science at the University of Chicago, Melvin G. Cooper, executive director, State Ethics Commission of Alabama; Earl Trent, house counsel, Board of National Ministries, American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. and James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The committee will work in close consultation with the Baptist Joint Committee.

The recent ruling of the Tennessee Supreme Court upheld a state constitutional ban on ministers, priests and rabbis serving in the state legislature or the upcoming state constitutional convention.

The Baptist Joint Committee adopted a resolution which expresses "the conviction that, in keeping with Article VI of the U. S. Constitution and the free exercise clause of the First Amendment, there should be no government-imposed religious test for public office."

The resolution also authorizes the Baptist Joint Committee staff to file an "amicus curiae" (friend of the court) brief if the Tennessee ruling, or similar rulings are appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court. Such a brief would be a joint effort with other interested denominations.

U. S. Senator Jennings Randolph (D-W. Va.), the only Seventh Day Baptist serving in Congress, hosted a breakfast in the U. S. Capitol for the Baptist Joint Committee. He was joined by six members of the House of Representatives, all of them Baptists. Randolph, who was celebrating his 75th birthday and is the senior legislator on Capitol Hill in years of service, appealed to the group to keep the faith in these "troubled times."

Congressman John H. Buchanan (R-Ala.), an ordained Southern Baptist minister, said, "The hard thing in this job is not deciding to do right but to decide what is right." Buchanan, who left the pastorate to run for public office, said that his decision was deliberate and honorable. "I turned to a new kind of mission and ministry," he added.

Rep. Charles Diggs Jr. (D-Mich.) challenged committee members to an accelerated "level of activity." He also credited President Carter with bringing the nation together. Diggs is a member of the Hartford Avenue Baptist Church in Detroit, where Charles G. Adams, Baptist Joint Committee chairman, serves as pastor.

During the two-day meeting, Baptist Joint Committee members also heard

reports from Executive Director Wood and three other staff members.

Wood reported that he will be a delegate to next month's biennial meeting of the United National Association at UN headquarters in New York. He also announced publication of a new staff report, written by associate director John W. Baker, entitled "Nontheistic Religions and the First Amendment."

Baker previewed the 95th Congress and associate directors W. Barry Barrett and Stan L. Hasty briefed committee members on the first six weeks of the Carter administration and the current U. S. Supreme Court term.

The Baptist Joint Committee also adopted a record budget of more than \$268,000 for the 1977-78 fiscal year.

Newsbriefs In The World Of Religion



Washington (BP) — Postage rates for non-profit, church-related publications will exceed 1,000 percent of pre-postal reorganization rates when current law is fully implemented, according to a religious editor testifying before the Postal Study Commission here. David E. Kucharsky, senior editor of Christianity Today, an interdenominational publication, told the commission, "The non-profit, church-related press is facing a real and critical problem with respect to soaring postage rates... not matched by the for-profit press. Kucharsky accused the Postal Rate Commission of "irrationality" and "inequity" in establishing policies which "resulted in spiraling postage rates for non-profits far outstripping the increases visited upon 'for-profit' publications in the same mail classification."

Dallas (EP) — An Oklahoma-born singing star who has sold more than 32 million recordings says he has "accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour," after being delivered from a condition close to death and insanity through drugs. B. J. Thomas, who popularized songs like "Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head," "Hooked On A Feeling," and many others, said when he came to the end of himself he got down on his knees and prayed. "It was like a miracle," he told EP News Service. "I couldn't stop laughing and smiling." Now recording on Word, Inc.'s Myrrh label, B. J. remains on the nightclub circuit with his wife, Gloria — also "born again" — after feeling strongly that the Lord called them to "stay in the marketplace" where they have their most fruitful ministry.

Dallas (EP) — The prestigious Record World magazine has introduced the first gospel music chart for the secular trade, according to Dan Johnson, promotion director for Word, Inc. Speaking at a gathering of 14 editors (12 from evangelical periodicals) during a conference sponsored by Word to introduce singing stars B. J. Thomas and Evie Tornquist, Johnson noted the spectacular rise in popularity of gospel music and said record audiences were assembling for concerts to hear Christian musicians such as Larry Norman, Randy Stonehill, Andrae Crouch and others.

Annapolis, Md. (EP) — A bill providing "one moment" for silent meditation before classes each morning could "restore order and calm down" students in this day of "violence, disruption and disorder," its sponsor claims. Delegate Decatur W. Trotter (D-Prince Georges County) defended his measure, submitted earlier in the Maryland House of Delegates, in an appearance before that body's Judiciary Committee at a public hearing on it.

New York (RNS) — The Borden Co. and Abbott Laboratories have agreed to substantially change their promotion practices on powdered baby milk which tend to discourage mothers from breast feeding in Third World Countries. The agreement followed a two-year campaign by stockholder church agencies, coordinated by the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, an agency related to the National Council of Churches. The church groups charge that the promotion and sale of the baby milk powder in countries where families are unable to prepare the products properly has resulted in an increased incidence of malnutrition and death among infants there.

London (EBPS) — The Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) ended its 1975-76 financial year with a deficit of \$7,000 lbs — the biggest in many years. Increased support from churches was not as high as was expected and needed, a BMS spokesman told Baptist Times, saying "an unusual and dramatic increase is needed this year if a serious financial crisis is to be avoided."

Philadelphia (RNS) — A federal judge here agreed with claims of the Philadelphia Roman Catholic archdiocese that a recent order by the National Labor Relations Board constitutes "entanglement" in religion and stopped the NLRB from conducting a union representation election for elementary school lay teachers. Judge Donald W. VanArtsdalen ruled that the Jan. 17 election order by the labor board "inevitably" would amount to government incroachment into religion and said the NLRB order "does tread on the free exercise (of religion) clause of the First Amendment." He issued a preliminary injunction against the election.

Lansing (RNS) — The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) has recommended that the legal drinking age be returned to 21. It was reduced from 21 to 18 in 1972. The rate of alcohol-related accidents among 18-20 year old drivers significantly increased after the drinking age was lowered, the highway safety unit said. School officials have also complained of problems caused by the lower drinking age. Because 18-year-olds who are still in high school can now legally buy beer and liquor, there have been reports of some coming to school inebriated. Officials also complain that younger students now have easier access to liquor.

London (EP) — Danish film-maker Jens Jørgen Thorsen, who caused a nationwide controversy in Britain last year when he announced plans to produce a pornographic movie there on the "sex life" of Jesus, has been barred from entering the country. Thorsen was detained when he flew into London's Heathrow Airport from Copenhagen on Feb. 9 and referred to the Home Office (Interior Ministry). Later, Home Secretary Merlyn Reese announced in the House of Commons that Mr. Thorsen's entry into Britain was "not conducive to the public good" and that Mr. Thorsen would be sent back to Copenhagen later in the day. The Danish movie producer has been refused permission to film his controversial "Life of Jesus" in Denmark, Sweden, France, Italy, and Israel.

CBS Will Televis Easter Service At Carters' Church

WASHINGTON (BP) — The nation will have an opportunity to worship with President Jimmy Carter and his family — unless they are in Plains, Ga. for Easter — when CBS News airs the Easter worship services live from Washington's First Baptist Church, April 10.

Charles Trentham, pastor of the church where the Carters are active members, will preach the sermon for the service which will be aired on CBS from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Eastern Standard Time.

It will be produced by CBS News, in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth. Pamela Iott, vice president of religious and cultural broadcasts, CBS News, New York, is in charge of the production. Truett Myers, senior vice president of production services for the Radio and Television Commission, is consultant.

Special Week Focuses On Doctrine Of God

NASHVILLE — "We are in the business of teaching disciples to live in today's world, to serve through today's church and to minister to today's people," emphasizes Philip B. Harris, secretary of the church training department at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. "Our purpose is to awaken the consciences of Southern Baptists to what we believe and why we believe it."

Harris was stressing the importance of Baptist Doctrine Week, which will be conducted in Southern Baptist churches April 3-8. The six-day study, coordinated by the board's church training department, will focus on the doctrine of God and its implications in the daily lives of Christians.

Harris believes that a clear understanding of the nature of God is also essential to such denominational emphases as evangelism, missions and stewardship.

"We can never accomplish some of the goals we have set in our denomination and in our churches until the people of God mature in the Christian faith," Harris said. "We feel that the total life of Southern Baptists will be impoverished without attention to such fundamentals of our Baptist faith."

This year Baptist Doctrine Week will feature six new books, offering study resources for every age group.

The books include *The Doctrine of God*, by Gary Farley, for adults; *Youth Affirm: the Doctrine of God*, by Dan Kent, for youth; *Exploring Baptist Beliefs*, by Robert Brown, for middle and older children; *Exploring Baptist Beliefs, Teaching Unit*, by Johnnie Human, for workers with children; *Things Families Do Together*, by Zedabeth Uland for older preschoolers; and *My Church*, by Mrs. Willa Ruth Garlow, for younger preschoolers.



NASHVILLE — BAPTIST DOCTRINE WEEK — Resource materials for every age group will be provided during Baptist Doctrine Week, April 3-8, as Southern Baptists gather to study the nature and the doctrine of God.

Priorities In Christian Ethics Are Examined At Commission Seminar

"Priorities" is the topic of the 1977 national seminar sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. The seminar was scheduled for Jackson, March 21-23, at the Holiday Inn Downtown.

The speakers and their subjects included: Kenneth Chafin, pastor, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Texas — "Christian Conversion and Moral Responsibility"; U. S. Senator Dale Bumpers from Arkansas — "Economic Priorities"; Jerry Clower, country humorist, Yazoo City, Mississippi — "Priorities in the Christian Life — A Personal Testimony"; Clyde Fant, pastor, First Baptist Church, Richardson, Texas — "Priorities and Christian Faith"; Benjamin Hooks, member of the Federal Communications Commission and president-elect of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People — "Contemporary Priorities in Race Relations"; John Killinger, professor of Preaching, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Tennessee — "The Priority of Preaching the Gospel"; Wayne Oates, professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Louisville School of Medicine — "Character, Values, and Education in Moral Decision Making"; and Hodding Carter, under secretary-elect for Public Affairs, U. S. Department of State — "The Priority of Global Justice."

Theme interpretations on priorities were to be brought at each session by composer-pianist Ken Medema from New York City and John Claypool, pastor of the Northminster Baptist Church in Jackson.

A husband and wife team, John Scanzoni, professor of Sociology, Indiana University, Bloomington; In-

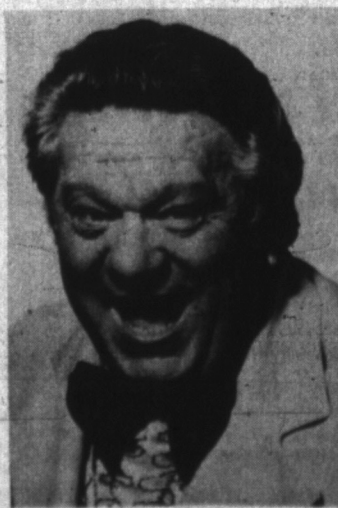
diana, and Letha Scanzoni, author-lecturer, discussed "The Priority of Nurturing Christian Families" and "The Priority of Understanding Male and Female Roles in a Changing Society."

Roger Shinn, professor, Union Theological Seminary, New York, and Krister Stendahl, dean of the Divinity School, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, addressed the group on "The Priority of Moral Decision Making" and "The Priority of Church." Arthur Simon, executive director of Bread for the World, New York, outlined "The Priority of Feeding the Hungry"; and Hal Wingo,

news editor, PEOPLE Magazine, New York, dealt with "The Priority of Morally Responsible Media."

"In the church and out of the church, there is a pressing, critical, desperate need for a reordering of our priorities," said Foy Valentine, executive secretary for the Christian Life Commission. "As the nation is getting into its third century, this seminar will consider from the perspective of Christian morality the most important priority issues to which we believe the people of God should devote their individual and corporate attention."

Reports of the Seminar will be featured in next week's Baptist Record.



Three Missisippians are among those featured at the Christian Life Commission Seminar. They are Jerry Clower, left, Yazoo City humorist; John Claypool, right, pastor of Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson and Hodding Carter, not pictured, editor of the Greenville Delta Democrat-Times, and undersecretary-elect for Public Affairs U.S. Department of State.

Mississippi Baptist Convention Programs, Conferences, Projects...

Bible Conference Focuses

The Missions Task Get On The Trail!



Rhea



Chavis



Carpenter



Williams



Summers

State Bible Conference Calvary Baptist Church Jackson, Miss. March 28-29, 1977

MONDAY AFTERNOON—MARCH 28

2:00 Auditorium—General Session
Presiding—Byrant Cummings

Music
Welcome Rhea, Branham, Carpenter
Scripture, Psalm 19:1-14 H. C. Adams, Schlatter
Prayer Joe H. Tuten
Recognitions and Henry Adams, Newton
Introductions
Music

2:30 "What the Bible Says Carl E. Bates
About the Greatness of God" Gene Dobbs, Philadelphia
Prayer

3:10 Free Time

3:30 Bible Conferences (No. 1)

5:00 Adjourn

MONDAY NIGHT — MARCH 28

6:45 Bible Conferences (No. 2)

Gymnasium Youth (Ages 12-17) Bible Conference 6:45-9:15
Director—Larry Salter

8:10 Adjourn to Auditorium—General Session
Presiding—Earl Kelly

8:20 Music Rhea, Branham, Carpenter
Scripture, 2 Peter 1:10-21 Zack Wittingham, Canton
Prayer Mrs. Holmes Carlisle, Morton
Recognitions and Introductions
Music Robert E. Naylor
"What the Bible Says About the Experience of Reconciliation" Charles Melton, Newton

TUESDAY MORNING—MARCH 29

8:45 Auditorium—General Session
Presiding—Ralph Atkinson

Music Rhea, Branham, Carpenter
Scripture, 2 Timothy 3:1-17 Gus Merritt, Decatur
Prayer Reese Kyzar, Rolling Fork
Introductions and Recognitions

9:05 "Translations and Versions of the Bible" Ray Summers, Clyde Francisco, Robert Naylor
Panel Chairman—Earl Kelly

9:40 Music

9:50 "What the Bible Says About Rewards" Ray Summers
Prayer Gerald Buckley, Natchez

10:30 Free Time

10:45 Bible Conferences (No. 3)

12:15 Adjourn

TUESDAY AFTERNOON—MARCH 29

2:00 Auditorium—General Session
Presiding—Clifton Perkins

Music Rhea, Branham, Carpenter
Scripture, Romans 15:4 Ralph Noonkester, Hattiesburg
Matthew 7:21-29 Ervin Brown, Hernando
Prayer
Introductions and Recognitions
Music

2:20 "What the Bible Says About the Beginnings" Clyde Francisco
Prayer J. L. Rasberry, Pearlinton

3:10 Free Time

3:30 Bible Conferences (No. 4)

5:00 Adjourn

BIBLELAND BANQUET
Tickets \$3.50
Fellowship Hall • 5:15 P.M. • MARCH 29 • Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY NIGHT—MARCH 29

Youth (Ages 12-17) Bible Conference
Gymnasium 6:45-9:15
Director—Larry Salter

6:45 Auditorium—General Session
Presiding—Bryant Cummings

Music Rhea, Branham, Carpenter
Scripture, 1 Peter 1:13-25 Jim Vance, Starkville
Prayer Roy Myers, Independence
Recognitions and Introductions

7:15 "Our Attitude Toward the Charismatic Movement" Robert Naylor, Landrum Leavell, Clyde Francisco
Panel Chairman—Earl Kelly

8:00 Music Rhea, Branham, Carpenter
8:15 "What the Bible Says About Christ the Son of God" Landrum Leavell
Prayer Hueston Adkins, Mendenhall

Ridgecrest Hosts Month Of Seminars For Pastors

RIDGECREST, N. C. — The month of April could easily be labeled Pastor's Month at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center with four continuing education opportunities planned for pastors.

A seminar on Improving Pastoral Leadership Skills, for pastors with one to five years experience, will be offered April 11-15 and April 25-28. An Advanced Seminar in Leadership Skills also will be offered April 25-28, and a Marriage Enrichment Workshop for Pastors and Wives will be held April 28-30. All four seminars are sponsored by the pastoral section of

the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church administration department and will be directed by pastoral ministries consultants from the department.

Ridgecrest offers an ideal location for the seminars since it is within a one-day driving distance of more than 50 percent of Southern Baptist pastors.

The registration fee for each of the pastoral leadership skills seminars is \$30. All fees include meals and conference materials. The fee should be sent to the Church Program Training Center, 127 Ninth Ave., North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

Conference For Workers With Deaf Children

RIDGECREST, N. C. — Workers with deaf children in grades 1-6 will have the opportunity this summer to participate in a separate leadership training conference, July 30-Aug. 5, at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

The conference, designed for persons already involved in church programs for deaf children and those interested in beginning a deaf ministry, is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School department as part of the third Sunday School Leadership Conference this summer.

In morning training sessions, participants will learn how to effectively use the Resource Kit for Teaching Deaf Children, the Southern Baptist curriculum line for deaf children which was introduced last summer at Ridgecrest and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers.

Workshops dealing with visual aids also will be offered, along with question and answer sessions. It is hoped that teaching demonstration sessions can be scheduled in which deaf children from neighboring special schools participate.

Conference leaders will include Ginny Davis, design editor in the children's section of the Sunday School Board's Sunday School department, and Karen King, a teacher of deaf children in Columbia, S.C.

A similar conference is scheduled June 25-July 1 at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. Conferences for Sunday School workers with adult deaf persons will be held simultaneously at both conference centers.

To participate in the conference for workers with deaf children at Ridgecrest, persons should register for the third Sunday School Leadership Week, which begins with the evening meal on Saturday and concludes at noon Friday. Address reservation requests, including a \$15 conference services fee, to Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C. 28770.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

Now Younger GA Members Can Camp At Garawya!

A Mother-Daughter Overnight Camp for GAs, Grades 1-3, at Camp Garawya, Clinton, April 22-23 will be the first of its kind sponsored by Mississippi WMU.

Waudine Story, consultant, Girls in Action, says, "Each girl is to bring her mother to camp. If a girl's mother cannot come, then the girl can come with some other lady (as her GA leader). However, no more than one girl may come with one lady."

Missionaries on program will be Mrs. John McFadden of Nigeria; Mrs. Connie Rudd, Jackson, home missionary with National Baptists; Mrs. Dolton Haggan, Philadelphia, home missionary to the Choctaws; and Aris Pender, Kosciusko, retired missionary, Singapore. The mission emphasizes will center around units of study for GAs in 1977.

Camp begins with registration at 4 p.m. on April 22 and closes at lunch on Saturday, April 23. The cost will be \$10 per person, or \$10 for mother and \$10 for daughter. This fee is to cover the cost of overnight stay, three meals, and insurance.

In this first mother-daughter camp for GAs, Grades 1-3, the program will center around small group activities, with mother-daughter togetherness throughout. They will need to bring sheets, pillow, towels, washcloth,

Nashville — Youth and leadership editions of the 1977 church camp curriculum series, entitled *Recognizing Relationships*, are now available, according to Ray Conner, secretary of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church recreation department. *Recognizing Relationships* for leaders, written by Don Mattingly, consultant in the Sunday School Board's church recreation department, contains guidelines and suggestions for organizing and implementing a weeklong church camp. Ideas for small-group activities, Bible studies, camp devotions, dramatic presentations and crafts also are included.

(Continued from page 1)

Both the Baptist Bookstore and the American Bible Society will have exhibits at the conference. Plus, there will be a specially prepared exhibit of old Bibles prepared by the Mississippi College library.

Childcare for pre-schoolers will be provided during all five sessions of the conference. And tapes of the key speakers' addresses will be available for purchase.

The conference begins on Wednesday afternoon, March 28 at 2:00 p.m., and ends at 9:15 p.m., March 29.

The annual event is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Bryant Cummings of the MBCB staff is coordinator and organizer. The public is invited.

Nashville — The first Southern Baptist Convention conference planned specifically for ministers of youth will premiere here April 25-28 at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and First Baptist Church. The 1977 National Conference on Youth Ministry is the result of a cooperative effort by the youth-related sections of the church administration, Sunday School, church training, church music and church recreation departments of the Sunday School Board; the Acteens department of the Woman's Missionary Union; and the Pioneer department of the Brotherhood Commission. For more information, write: Bob R. Taylor, Church Administration Department, Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Ave., North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234. A list of hotels and motels in the Nashville area will be sent to all registrants.

Cooperative Missions

Ethnic Evangelism Institute Scheduled

On March 26-27, 1977, an "Ethnic Institute of Evangelism" will be held at the Baptist Building in Jackson. The meeting on the 26th will begin at 7:00 and adjourn at 9:00 p.m. and on the 27th it will begin at 9:30 and adjourn at 3:30 p.m.

All Mississippi language missionaries will be involved in this overview of the evangelistic manual on "How to Grow An Evangelistic Church."

Bob Sena, consultant on ethnic evangelism with the Evangelism Section of the Home Mission Board will be conducting this seminar. This is a joint

By John Alexander, Director Stewardship Department, MBCB

Two dedicated fox hunters were sitting under a sprawling oak on the backside of the pasture bottom near a trickling brook when a melodious sound pierced the night air. It was the sound of the hounds as they picked up the warm trail of a venturesome fox. "They're in good voice tonight," remarked one hunter to the other.

As expressed by an early pioneer preacher and educator, "What the churches need is to get on the warm trail of a lost world."

What I fear most is that some of our fine churches are not really in the "hunt" but are willing to walk around the forest and meadows of "usual" church activities and never really get lined up behind the leader with the commitment necessary to run down the objective. Foxhounds who are most prized by their owners must know what they are hunting, be able to identify the trail, and have the energy and determination to pursue it to the proper destination.

Genuine leadership in any cause is rare, beyond price, and always the nucleus of meaningful achievement. Nowhere is this fact more evident than in a Baptist church. Like the sheep of Jesus' day, people in the churches need leadership. Someone has said that in a church are three types of people: Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who don't know what's happening. It is a tragedy indeed when those who are capable of "making things happen" simply "don't."

Since we as Southern Baptists have taken on the whole world in the next 24 years, it behooves us to get busy "strengthening the stakes and lengthening the cords." This task of world witness cannot be achieved by a

few of us. Every church, every Baptist must be increasingly and meaningfully involved in and through the churches. You can help change the world! Let me suggest some ways:

(1) PRAY. Prayer changes things. Prayer changes people. If we pray we have a chance of success. Pray intelligently. Pray intercessorily. Be willing for God to use you to answer your prayer!

(2) STUDY. As a part of a self-determining group, you need the right information, not misinformation. Read your Bible. Read your state Baptist paper. Read mission books and magazines. Attend your mission organizations, Go to summer camps, assemblies, and conferences. Make it your business to know more state, home, and foreign missionaries personally. A sizable group are always living or furloughing in the state. Visit your Baptist Building and home and foreign mission fields.

(3) GIVE. Men are needed in missions, but money is an indispensable part also. They who are called cannot go unless there are those to send and support them. Missions really begins in the local church as young people are won to the Lord and nurtured in the faith. Missions continue as we support a strong mission emphasis in the state, provide for Christian higher education, seminaries, and then offer increasing support to the mission boards to provide for adequate personnel who are called to go. Southern Baptist Churches have the most economical, workable, and dependable plan for supplying a world mission program in all the universe. It can convey across the world any volume of support the churches provide. The mission boards are limited by the provisions provided by the churches. The churches are limited by the provisions provided them by the members. Most members would give, and give more, if they were properly informed and asked. The churches having the best response in mission giving are the churches that take the time and make the effort to properly inform and challenge their people.

(4) GO. Some who read this article ought to say in response to the call of the Lord, "Here I am! Send me!" Few experiences set a church on fire for missions like having some of their own go to a mission field. Perhaps God wants your life to put your church "on the warm trail of a lost world."

BROTHERHOOD

Men And Boys Rally Together In April

April... and MAN & BOY RALLIES, are knocking at the door. This is that very special time of the year when church Brotherhoods across the state have "get-togethers" for men and boys. These rallies will begin on April 14, and the last one will be held on April 29. Below is the schedule:

April 14—West Heights Church, Pontotoc—7:00 p.m.
April 15—First Church, Philadelphia—7:00 p.m.
April 21—First Church, Grenada—7:00 p.m.
April 22—First Church, Brandon—7:00 p.m.
April 28—Easthaven Church, Brookhaven—7:00 p.m.
April 29—Highland Church, Laurel—7:00 p.m.

The purpose of these programs is to bring men and boys together for Christian fellowship, mission emphasis and challenge, inspiration, food, recreation and information.

A supper will be served at host churches... the type that men and boys like best. Reservations should be made early at the church of your choice by those planning to attend. Cost of the meal is \$1.50 per person.

The Man & Boy Rallies are sponsored by the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Paul Harrell, director. Anyone needing further information should contact this department at Box 530, Jackson 39205, or telephone (601) 354-3704.

Mississippi Churches Plan 1977 Mission Work Trips

Each year, dozens of Mississippi Baptist churches send groups of their members out to perform mission work away from home.

Oak Grove and First Baptist churches of McGee, both in Simpson County association, will be traveling to Lewiston, Laurel, and Hamilton, Montana in June.

At least 17 young people and several adults will be there May 31 - June 16, conducting Vacation Bible Schools and Backyard Bible Fellowships.

Highway patrolman, Don Blackwell, who serves as minister of music for Oak Grove church, will be coordinator of the work team.

Also going to Montana this summer will be three families from Chunky Baptist Church, Chunky. Montana is considered a sister state to Mississippi for Southern Baptist work.

The group will go to Columbus, Mont., July 10-15 to conduct Vacation Bible Schools. So far, six adults, four

teens, and one child are scheduled to go.

Another project this summer that Mississippians will be working on is in Danville, Ind. The group will work at Hillcrest Baptist Church there, June 12-19. The men will work for five days helping to construct a new church au-

ditorium. The women will assist in VBS and Backyard Bible Clubs. Both men and women will give testimonies, sing, and visit during a weekend revival, June 17-19.

Clifton Davis, a former Mississippian from Brandon, is pastor of the Danville church.



Pictured left to right are members of Calvary Baptist Church, Waynesboro, who will work this summer on a mission project in Danville, Ind. Tommie Cooper, Betty Bishop, Mrs. James Cooper, Mrs. Earle Trigg, Willie Gale Trigg, Jimmy Knight, Peggy Knight, Terry Parnell, Mrs. Robert Sanderson, and Robert Sanderson (pastor). Others going, but not pictured are Mr. and Mrs. James Dickinson, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Tomlinson, and John Bishop. (Photo courtesy Alane Limerick, Wayne County News.)

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Only The IRS Knows

We live in a world where decisions come hard because there is always someone to question any decision and point out the gray areas involved. This is true particularly when it involves regulations established by federal government bureaus. It could be that most regulations stemming from our bureaucratic way of life are conceived in good faith and in an effort to establish a well-defined order of procedures.

Many of these regulations, on the other hand, are questionable. This is especially true of the attempt by the Internal Revenue Service to establish what is taxable and what is not taxable by exempting the "integrated auxiliary of a church" and then attempting to define such an integrated auxiliary.

This puts the IRS in the position of trying to define a church. Now not all people involved in what they would call churches are in agreement as to

what constitutes a church; and thus it would seem that if we are to conform to the First Amendment to the Constitution, there is not much way that IRS can go about defining one. The tax officials are almost certain to miss someone's definition somewhere along the line and therefore would be interfering with the free exercise of religion.

This seems simple enough until we begin to consider some of the organizations that call themselves churches but which bear no resemblance to a church according to the concept generally accepted by most Americans. To allow such organizations to remain tax exempt because they say they are churches or organizations of churches seems to stretch the bounds of reason. Yet if there is something or someone which they accept as a deity and which they claim to worship, where could the line be drawn? It is doubtful that IRS has established an answer to this question.

Back to the integrated auxiliary—it is not the church proper, so under certain circumstances the IRS feels it should be taxed. Yet how far away from the church do you allow the line of demarcation to be drawn before you say the entity is no longer a part of the church and therefore is subject to taxation.

It is doubtful that IRS has established an answer to this question also. We have managed for some time in the United States without a federal bureau needing to define a church. There seems to be no necessity for it now.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has taken a stand in opposition to any such definition and is watching the developments in this matter very closely. On this page is to be found a treatment on the subject by James Wood, executive director of the committee. It would bear reading.

Readers' Survey

A readership survey is being conducted among a sample of subscribers to The Baptist Record. The survey, which is being handled completely by the Research Services Department of the Sunday School Board, is seeking to determine the opinions and reading habits of our readership.

Every precaution has been taken to make the survey completely accurate and unbiased.

The survey involves 600 of our subscribers. These were selected at random from our subscriber list. We had

no influence whatsoever in choosing those who are to receive the survey.

The survey questionnaire itself was prepared by the Research Services Department, using their experience and expertise. The questionnaires are being mailed by them, and the responses will be returned to them.

This Baptist Sunday School Board department will compile the results and share these with us. We will not even see the forms returned by those participating in the survey.

Those responding to the survey will

remain anonymous. They are not asked to sign their names.

The purpose of the readership survey is to help the editorial staff of The Baptist Record to publish the kind of state paper which will be the most helpful publication possible.

Our only involvement in the process is to urge you who receive the readership survey to fill it out honestly and completely. Its purpose is not necessarily to solicit compliments. You can help us the most by sharing your personal feelings and opinions.

The Charleston Beginnings

A few weeks ago it was a real privilege for the writer to attend the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association. This is the gathering of the editors of Southern Baptist state papers and certain other Southern Baptist publications.

Because in some instances associate editors attend these meetings also, I have been fortunate in having missed only two of the annual meetings since I attended my first one in 1960. They have meant a great deal to me through the years, and now some of my most treasured friendships are to be found in that group.

This year's meeting was held in Charleston, S. C., and it proved to be a delightful site with a great deal of interesting history concerning Southern Baptists.

The first Baptist church in the South

was in Charleston, and it has been meeting on the same spot since 1699. The very beautiful building in which the church worships today was completed in 1822. Thankfully, it has been well preserved and stands as a wonderful reminder of our early years in the South. We are now, of course, the predominant religious body in the South.

William Screven was the first pastor of the church and led in the moving of the group from Massachusetts to Kittery, Maine, and thence to Charleston.

The next pastor was Oliver Hart, who came from Philadelphia and served 30 years. He made remarkable contributions to Baptists in Charleston and so to Southern Baptists for generations to come. He was succeeded by another Baptist giant, Richard Furman. He is credited with the concepts

which paved the way for Southern Baptist organization.

The churches in Charleston formed the first Baptist association, and they sent out the first missionary. The first state convention was made up of South Carolina Baptist churches, and the two founders of Southern Baptist Seminary were members of the Charleston congregation. They were James P. Boyce and Basil Manly Jr.

The present pastor of First Baptist Church, Charleston, is Paul Craven. The editor of the Baptist Courier, the state paper of South Carolina, is John Roberts. The Baptists of the state were delightful hosts.

It was an interesting and inspiring trip. Of particular interest was a walk along streets in the older section of town and finding buildings still in use and in good state of repair that were in use before the Revolutionary War.

The Churches And The IRS

By James E. Wood Jr.
Executive Director,
Baptist Joint Committee
On Public Affairs

There is a mounting crisis between the churches and the Internal Revenue Service. Signs of this potential crisis were first noted in the proposed rules of the IRS on defining "integrated auxiliary of a church," dated February 11, 1976, which provided for church agencies or organizations not so designated by IRS to file annual informational returns (Form 990). Mandatory exception from the filing of these returns was made for "churches, their integrated auxiliaries, and conventions or associations of churches."

In the delineation of these rules the IRS proposed a "primary purpose" test which said that to be an integrated auxiliary an agency's primary purpose must be to "carry out the tenets, functions, and principles of faith of the church with which it is affiliated."

Subsection (b) of Section 6033 carried the definition further by limiting the

carrying out of this primary purpose of the promotion of religious activity among the members of the church.

The IRS spelled out its definition of "integrated auxiliaries" with examples (theological seminary, hospital, elementary school, religious youth organization, and old age home) in which the primary purpose rule said, in essence, that even though a church undertakes an activity in carrying out its religious mission, the IRS will determine whether or not that activity's primary purpose is to promote the basic tenets, functions, and principles of faith of the church. For example, with regard to a church orphanage the IRS noted that "although the operation of the orphanage is regarded by the church officials and members as a way of discharging their religious obligations to care for needy children... its primary purpose cannot be to carry out the tenets, functions, and principles of faith of the church." Therefore, the IRS declared, the orphanage cannot be regarded as an "integrated auxiliary of a church." In response to these proposed regulations of February 11, 1976, more than 80 denominations and religious agencies—Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Mormon, and others—filed statements with the IRS. On June 7, 1976, fifteen of them gave oral testimony before the IRS panel which included the Tax Commissioner himself. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs did both. All of the testimony, both written and oral, presented by all of the denominations and agencies was, without exception, in opposition to the proposed rules.

On January 4, 1977, the final regulation of the IRS on defining "Integrated Auxiliary of a Church" was published in the Federal Register (pp. 767-8). The final regulation of the IRS eliminated the "primary purpose" test and substituted in its place the test of whether the "principal activity" of an organization or institution claiming to be an integrated auxiliary is "exclusively religious."

In Section 6033 the IRS defined "exclusively religious" to exclude any religious function which could be granted a tax exempt status under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In the words of the IRS, "an organization's principal activity will not be considered to be exclusively religious if that activity is educational, literary, charitable, or of another nature (other than religious) that would serve as a basis for exemption under Section 501(c) (3)." For example, a church orphanage or a church hospital, since it can be independently classified as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c) (3) of the Code, cannot be considered an integrated auxiliary of a church association or convention of churches. It must, therefore, file annual informational returns on Form 990. Interestingly enough, parochial schools are exempted under the discretionary power of the Secretary of the Treasury.

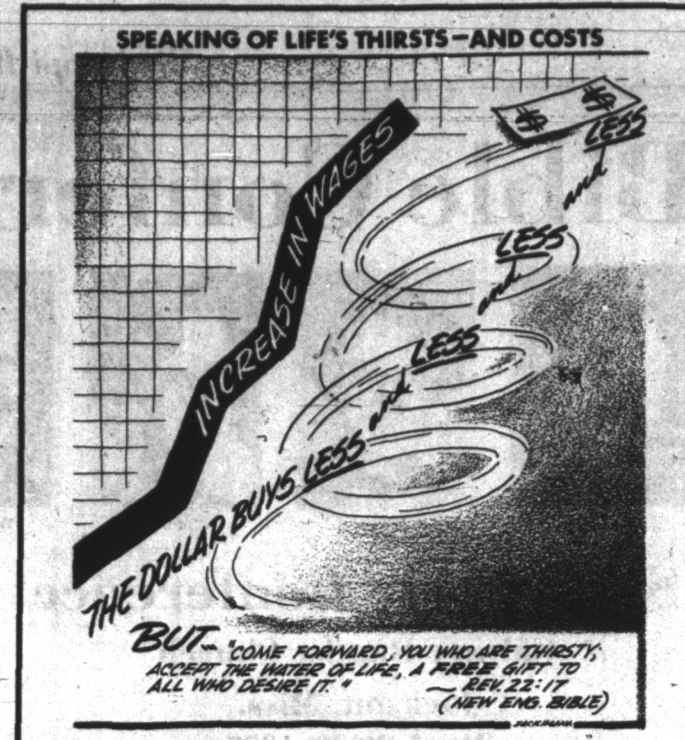
An important element in the final regulation seems to be whether or not the organization or agency has a legal identity of its own. If it does (i.e., it is separately incorporated), it must file a return. If a church organization institution does not have "a legal identity separate from that of the church" it apparently will not be required to file a return. While the words of the final regulation on defining "integrated auxiliary of a church" has been changed from the proposed rules of a year earlier, the net effect is the same.

The IRS regulation on "integrated auxiliary of a church" must be regarded as a serious encroachment of government on religion and an exercise of political authority totally unacceptable to the churches. To require an annual informational return (Form 990) on the basis of whether or not an organization is "Exclusively religious" does not define "integrated auxiliary," let alone resolve the question of whether or not the organization or agency is an "integrated auxiliary of a church." What is more offensive about

the regulation, however, is that the IRS has, in effect, arrogated to itself the highly questionable role of determining what is and what is not "religious" activity of church agencies and institutions. In doing so, the IRS has violated both the letter and the spirit of the First Amendment.

The churches' acceptance of the regulation would be tantamount to their acceptance of the authority of the state to define the role and mission of the churches. (While the IRS speaks specifically of a church or association of churches, the principle is no less applicable and crucial to synagogues, temples, mosques, et al.) There is no definition of "religion" in the Constitution and the U. S. Supreme Court has repeatedly acknowledged that it is probably constitutionally impossible to define religion. The definition of "religion," as used in the First Amendment, properly belongs outside the area of government prerogatives. The state may not define religion because, as Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes wrote in *Cincinnati v. Vester*, "To define is to limit." Hence, under the Constitution each church is the sole source of the definition of its mission and the church alone is capable of determining those agencies or auxiliaries which are integral to that mission.

The annual informational requirements imposed by the regulation would put the Internal Revenue Service in the wholly unacceptable and unconstitutional role of monitoring the internal affairs of a church, association or convention of churches, and their integrated agencies or auxiliaries. It should be noted that Form 990 would require information relating to annual income, expenditures, and salaries and that this information would be available to the press and any other persons requesting it. In the *Walt* case (1970), the Court, in dealing with the question of excessive entanglement of the state in the internal affairs of the churches, asserted that "the questions are whether the in-



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

I've been thinking a lot lately about some of God's most enchanting creatures—college girls. Cindy Merchant, junior at Ole Miss, and Luann Brown, freshman at Auburn, were guests at my house during their spring holidays. Both are my nieces. Luann's sister, Karen, Auburn senior, was still in the middle of exams, so I missed her.

My nephew, Tom Brown, the MC junior who lives with us, had been working late every night for several weeks in preparation for the annual Miss Mississippi College pageant. He was the producer and Phyllis Conlee and Rick Williams were the executive directors.

Luann, W. D., Mama, Betty, and I went to the pageant and were glad we did. The 17 contestants were varied in height, measurements, color of eyes and hair, and in talent presentation, but every one was bewitching, poised, and winning. Had I been a judge, I would have found it hard to decide.

Suellen McPhail was chosen for first place to succeed last year's title holder, Anne Jones of Brookhaven. Suellen drew a picture of praying hands while she was giving an inspirational talk about the different kinds of hands. Suellen is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Troy McPhail (members of Ridgeland Baptist Church). A sophomore majoring in home economics and interior design, she attended Blue Mountain before arriving at MC. She is 5'5" tall with brown hair and green eyes. She will represent Mississippi College at the Miss Mississippi pageant.

Miss of ceremonies was Eva Aultman Hart. I first met the delightful Eva when she was a teen-ager at Columbia and her father, Howard Aultman, was pastor there. I heard her sing at the SBC in Portland, Oregon, and watched her performance in the TV series, "Spring Street, USA."

Runners-up for the event in order of succession included Alisa Johnston, Pam Mitchell, Mary Leigh Coleman, and Lisa Vickery.

Alisa, who sang while she played the piano, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Johnston of Summit. A senior social work major, she graduated from Southwest Junior College. She is 5'6" with brown hair and brown eyes.

Pam Mitchell, who sang an operatic selection, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Mitchell of Jackson, and a sophomore speech and communications major. She is 5'2" tall with black hair and brown eyes.

Mary Leigh, who sang a popular song, is the daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Wayne Coleman of Terry. A junior, she is an early childhood education major. She is 5'4" tall, a blond with green eyes.

Lisa Vickery, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vickery of Greenville, is a freshman interior design major. She is 5'2" tall and has brown hair and blue eyes. She did a skit about football.

Though these girls were varied in size and talent, and I'm sure have different fields of interest, I'm fairly sure they have a lot in common. I think the college girl of today is probably more sophisticated than the one of my day, and probably has a wider and deeper range of knowledge. But, from my observation, the college girl still likes love letters, blue jeans, and chocolate milkshakes. She likes to listen to the radio, to sit up late in the dorm and gossip or giggle with her particular gang, to blink her long eyelashes at the captain of the football team. She likes to go jogging with her steady beau, and likes to get letters from home, especially if they enclose a check. She likes fluffy kittens, zany wall posters, green plants, and straight-A grades. She isn't particularly fond of sewing on buttons, going to bed early, getting up early, or studying for finals.

My favorite college girl is usually full of laughter, but sometimes she is serious. She is unique in her dreams and goals. She knows how to sift the important from the nonessential. She gives first place to her Heavenly Father. In her heart she is sweet—and wonderful.

On The Moral Scene

LIDDY'S ANALYSIS OF THE PENAL SYSTEM — Gordon Liddy, convicted Watergate conspirator, says his four years behind bars had shown him that prisons — far from rehabilitating criminals — teach them how to be more successful at breaking the law. Liddy said in an opinion page article in the February issue of *Connecticut* that most inmates he knows are planning their next big "score" rather than a change in lifestyle. (Associated Press, San Francisco Chronicle February 3, 1977)

Grain For Food, Not Liquor — "Dr. Jean Mayer, noted Harvard nutritionist, has renewed his plea that Americans contribute to the solution of the world hunger problem by channeling more of the nation's grain harvest into 'food for the hungry,' rather than increased alcoholic beverage production. The grain that goes into alcohol made in the U.S. could feed 20 million people a year, according to Mayer. The brewing industry alone uses the total annual production from more than 4 million acres of farmland in the U.S." — "Monday Morning Report," February 7, 1977.

MONEY AND A NAGGING CONSCIENCE — Money may not buy happiness, but apparently it can quiet a nagging conscience. At least that's the belief of thousands who contribute to the government's Conscience Fund, which was set up for those who cheat on their income taxes or steal from the government in other ways. Among the reasons why people contribute money are reusing an uncanceled stamp, stealing typewriter oil from the government and cheating on time cards while employed by the government. The fund, established 163 years ago, now totals \$3 million. Deposits are made to the government's general fund; which Congress then allocates. (From "Briefcase" in *Everybody's Money*, Winter 76-77)

Better Than A Little Lincoln

JACKSON, Ohio (BP) — When Scioto Valley Baptist Association observed its recent "Pastor Appreciation Day," a member of an affiliated church said the congregation had honored its pastor by giving him a new car.

"Praise the Lord," said C. B. Coleman of Jackson, the area mission director. "What is it?" "An Avon," the member replied. "Avon?" "You know, the kind that comes filled with shaving lotion," the member answered.

The Baptist Record

515 Mississippi Street
Jackson, Miss 39201

Don McGregor Editor
Tim Nicholas Associate Editor
Anne McWilliams Editorial

William H. Sellers Bus. Manager
Official Journal of the
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
CONVENTION BOARD

Earl Kelly
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
The Baptist Building
Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Clarence
Wilkinson, Clinton; Gary Holland, Pascagoula; J.
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Farrrell Cook, Aberdeen.

Subscription \$3.00 a year payable in advance.
Published weekly except week of July 4 and
Christmas.

Second Class Postage paid at Jackson, Missis-
sippi.
The Baptist Record is a member of the Southern
Baptist Press Association and the Evangelical
Press Association.

Presidential Search Committee Is Named

FORT WORTH (BP) — A nine-member presidential search committee has been named to find a successor for Robert E. Naylor, who retires as president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here in August, 1978.

The committee, named by seminary trustee chairman, Oswin Chrisman, a Dallas domestic relations court judge, includes seven trustees, a faculty member and a student.

James Carter, a trustee and pastor of First Baptist Church, Natchitoches, La., has been named chairman. He said the committee has set no target date for its recommendation to the board of trustees of the world's largest seminary.

Other trustee members are Lynn P. Clayton of Wichita, Kans., editor of the Baptist Digest of the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists; Dan Cooper, pastor, First Baptist Church, Shawnee, Okla.; William Cumble, executive secretary, Mt. Vernon Baptist Association, Alexandria, Va.; Dr. Louis Gibson, a Corsicana, Tex., surgeon; J. T. Luther, a Fort Worth, Tex., real estate developer; and Robert Potts, pastor, First Baptist Church, Columbus, Ga.

The faculty representative is William Tolar, professor of Biblical backgrounds, who has served on the faculty of Southwestern Seminary since 1965, and the student representative is Miss Mary Lois Summers, a third year doctor of musical arts candidate in the seminary's school of church music.

Following the initial meeting of the

search committee, Carter issued this statement: "The presidential search committee requests the prayerful concern and support of Southern Baptists during the time of its work. The committee invites any Southern Baptist anywhere to submit to it suggested guidelines for its work, criteria for its profile of the person to be recommended, or recommendations for the position."

Porch To Move To Tennessee

James M. Porch, pastor of Northside Church, Clinton, since February, 1971, has resigned to accept the pastorate of First Church, Tullahoma, Tennessee.

Porch, active in the Clinton area, is president of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission Board, president of the board of the Clinton Community Christian Corporation, consultant to the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and a board member of Mississippi Action for Progress.

He and his family reside at 911 Live Oak Drive and will remain in Clinton until Easter Sunday, April 11.

During his pastorate at Northside over 440 people united with the church; the budget grew from \$17,000 to over \$81,000; the church property doubled; a Children's Building was constructed; and the church sanctuary was redecorated.

Statistics do not reveal the complete Northside story. The church has majored on community involvement and has developed a varied program of Christian ministries. The people of Northside have reached out in many expressions of Christian caring and the teaching ministry has placed much emphasis on relating the gospel to major issues of life. These are some of the characteristics that have distinguished this Clinton church during the past six years.

Revival Dates

Sylvarena Church: March 25-27; Doctrinal Revival; Billy E. Simmons, associate professor of New Testament and Greek at New Orleans Seminary, and former pastor in Mississippi, speaker; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Galbraith of Hattiesburg, musicians

First, Shannon: April 3-8; Jerry Mixon, evangelist; Richard Miller family, musicians; Sarah Lynn Wiygul, organist; Carol Filgo and Amelia Anglin, pianists; Ira Bright, pastor; services Sunday at 11 and 7:30; during week at 7:30 p.m.

First Church, Lake (Scott): March 23-27; C. H. Eocklin, pastor, Westview, Jackson, evangelist; Margene Vance, First Church, Lake, music director; weekday services 7:30 p.m.; no Saturday service; Sunday services regular time; Sunday lunch at the church; W. P. Miley, pastor.

Collins Church, Collins: March 20-25; Jay Strack, evangelist, of Fort Worth, Texas; Robert Miller leading in music; services 7 p.m. Joe Ratcliff, pastor; and Lloyd Mims, minister of music.

Can A Puppet Go To Heaven?

By Nancy McGough

LOUISVILLE (BP) — Can puppets be Christian? Of course not, asserts seminarian Joan King, and she will not allow her puppets to be "saved" in a skit she performs.

Joan, a religious education student at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here, is a veteran puppeteer who takes her puppetry seriously. She has what might be called a "theology of puppets" and believes puppets can help children understand Bible truths, but they can also hinder him, she says:

"I feel very strongly that puppets should never be 'saved'; they should never pray to God. This confuses younger children. Once they realize these puppets are not real, they may think, 'everything else I've seen is like a cartoon on television.'

"The puppets can show all of the good qualities, and occasionally one puppet may have a bad quality that it overcomes, but we don't go into any depth sin or depth saving. I don't believe that's what puppets are for," she added.

Joan considers it all right to use puppets to tell a Bible story in Sunday Schools and children's church, "as long as children do not confuse the Bible character with someone in a storybook."

"But if we use biblical characters too much, the younger children might confuse the truth with unreality."

Joan became interested in puppetry through her home church, Northside Baptist Church in Jasper, Ala. Out of necessity she began making her own puppets — her first was a lion — and she has since made such characters as Chuck Woods (the woodchuck), the Flower Turtle, and Alfred the Inchworm.

Except for Chuck, Joan left her other puppets with the Northside puppeteers, "Salt 'n' Pepper."

Joan and Salt 'n' Pepper have performed for camps, churches, and for numerous retreats and banquets.

But a group of men attending the Alabama Baptist state deacon's retreat this past year proved to be their best audience.

"They responded better than any group we've ever had. I was afraid to do a deacon's retreat. Would they think, 'this is silly'?"

"But they liked it."

Cauthen Says, "We Need 1,250 Missionaries Now"

By Anne McWilliams

"We need more missionaries. We have 2,700 (plus) now. This number must double by the year 2,000 if we are to meet the missions challenge that every person in the world shall have the opportunity to hear the gospel of Christ in the next 25 years."

Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, was speaking to a group gathered in Province Chapel at Mississippi College on Tuesday evening, March 15.

"On my desk in Richmond right now I have requests for 1,250 new missionaries. In 1976, we appointed only 268."

Cauthen was the guest speaker for the Endowed Evangelism Lectureship of the Mississippi College Division of Religion, March 14-16 on the college campus. He spoke Monday and Wednesday at 10 a.m. in Nelson Hall auditorium, in addition to the session on Tuesday evening. Also he interviewed stu-

dent prospective missionaries. His subject Tuesday was the Foreign Mission Board's "Bold Mission Thrust."

He said that God calls nationals, as well as people here, into full-time Christian service: "At the present there are 3500 theological students enrolled in the various seminaries and Bible institutes of Southern Baptists in other countries around the world. There are 90,000 students enrolled in Baptist schools in other countries, from kindergarten through college."

"In countries where missionaries are forbidden or where it is difficult for us to communicate with the people — such as Russia, China, Vietnam — we will have to depend on the mass media to reach them with the gospel message."

Cauthen talked about the increase in world population and the corresponding increase in world hunger — the need for more food. "Besides preaching," he said, "we should practice the parable of the Good Samaritan."

DBC President Pledges Help To Save Athletics

DALLAS (BP) — William E. Thorn, president of Dallas Baptist College has personally pledged \$10,000 to a student-led drive to raise the funds to save the school's athletic program.

The Dallas Baptist board of trustees voted recently to terminate the college's participation in intercollegiate athletics beginning in June in order to stay within a balanced budget for the 1977-78 fiscal year.

A school official estimated that the sports program at Dallas Baptist College, which includes basketball, baseball and soccer, costs about \$100,000 a year.

Student leaders requested permission from the school administration to attempt to raise the money to keep the athletic program alive.

In the first 24 hours of the drive, they received more than \$22,000 in pledges from parents, Dallas area business leaders, and school administrators.

Thorn said the student attending the

college on athletic scholarships will be picked up by other existing scholarships if the students fail to raise enough funds.

Mrs. Martin Gilbert Dies In Jackson

Mrs. Martin J. Gilbert (79) resident of 718 Woodhill Road, Jackson, died Wednesday night, March 16, at her residence after an extended illness.

Funeral services were at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 18, at Briarwood Church, Jackson with Louis Smith officiating. Burial followed at a cemetery in Union, Mississippi.

Survivors include three sons, John L. Gilbert, Tickfaw, La.; James P. Gilbert, Quito, Ecuador; J. T. Gilbert, Jackson; and one daughter, Mrs. Charles A. Ray, Jackson; three sisters; 13 grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers gifts may be sent to

Thursday, March 24, 1977

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Acteens Service Aides attending Queens' Court at Garaywa were (left to right) Susan Ezell, Calvary, Greenwood; Debbie Walker, First, Louisville; Talitha Edwards, First, Grenada; Marsha Nestor, First, Coldwater; Debbie Smith, Tinsley, Yazoo City. Service Aide is the highest level of achievement in the Acteens Studia program. Talitha Edwards is one of six members of the National Acteens Advisory Panel for Woman's Missionary Union, SBC. Talitha was selected from 125 other applicants to represent Mississippi as a Panelist. She will attend the annual WMU Convention in Kansas City and be part of the program.

Queens' Court

(Continued from page 1)

Every Acteen attending Queens' Court is involved in Studia, the individual achievement plan for Acteens. Studia involves the Acteens in mission study, mission action, mission support and mission organization beyond the regular weekly meetings. Each activity in Studia strives to instill in the hearts and lives of each girl a deeper love for missions and her involvement in her world.

Queens' Court is sponsored by Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union and is directed by Marilyn Hopkins, State Acteens Consultant. Plan now to attend Queens' Court on March 10-12, 1978 at Camp Garaywa for another great weekend for Acteens who are involved in Studia.



the missions or ministerial aid fund at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La.

John L. is a state worker with the Louisiana Baptist Convention and formerly was pastor in Mississippi; James is a missionary to Ecuador; J. T. is a physical therapist; Mrs. Ray is a missionary to Thailand. Mrs. Gilbert's late husband, Martin Gilbert, was for many years associated with Baptist work in the state as associational missionary and as head of the Department of Rural Church Work.

A special guest who participated on the Queens' Court program was Mrs. Joy Pitts, Acteens leader and a writer for ACCENT, from Houston, Texas (left). Mrs. Pitts shared at each of the sessions an Acteen feature on the Acteens magazine ACCENT, Direct Evangelism and on Studia. Standing with Joy Pitts is Marilyn Hopkins, State Acteens Consultant, Mississippi WMU and Mrs. Frances Smira, State President of Mississippi WMU.

SCRAPBOOK



First Flower

A youngster gets a closeup view of a budding crocus. The brave crocus is usually the first flower of Spring, often popping up through Winter's last snow. (RNS Photo)

Spring

Earth awakening from winter's sleep;
Seeds bursting in deep terra firma's dark;
Tubers ejecting toward the sun;
Barefoot children having fun in the park.

Camellias, tulips, yellowbells;
Plum trees dressed in majestic white;
Hawthorne, violets, jonquills and
Peace blossoms, a delight to smell and see

A panoramic color scheme,
All part of the seasons per a plan
To landscape His beautiful earth;
"It's Spring, now", God reminds lowly man.

—Sarah Peugh

Of All The Springs

Of all the springs I remember...
This one I grasp, and shout with cheer,
Not for singing birds alone,
But that warm sunny days are here.

After the bitter, harsh winter—
The cold, the ice, the sleet, and snow—
I welcome spring with open arms
And never want to let her go!

I see robins, and swelling buds
And trace wild geese across the skies.
These were just casual things before
And never caught my busy eyes.

—Victoria Singley

The Wandering Galilean

He sensed the biting solitude,
although He walked among the throng;
for there was none who understood
the truth that urged His trek along.

He met each day their vaunt and power;
He stood before their hate and pride.
He faced them every single hour;
but then at last was crucified.

—Hartford Berry

The Road To God's House

This little road leads to Bunkley Church
It is all decorated with trees
And Mother Nature has beautified the country side
And God seems to whisper in the breeze

Here the gospel is preached and love displayed
By a dedicated pastor to all
And Jesus is waiting at the door to invite
you in—if you care to call

At Bunkley Baptist, there is no room for
Fashion and high society and such—just
Plain old-fashioned people coming together
For the Master's touch

Each Sunday a spiritual blessing is laid
On each and every one
Burdens are lifted and all hearts are
Entwined together—They will be done—

Today's youth are gathering there and
Glorying in His amazing love,
To fellowship with one another. It's a
Blessing from above.

Souls are being won to Jesus. It's truly
The House of the Lord.
Here's a continuous revival, and all
Hearts are in one accord.

—Emma Smith

Ridgecrest Student Week To Feature New Seminars

RIDGECREST, N. C. — Comprehensive seminars for international students and college-bound high school seniors and a record attendance goal of 2,000 students will be special features of this year's Student Conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

The annual summer conference for students, planned Aug. 20-26, is sponsored by National Student Ministries of the Sunday School Board. "Touching My World" will be the theme of the Ridgecrest week and of a similar conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center Aug. 13-19.

The special seminars for international students, high school youth and church workers with college students will be "more comprehensive than anything planned for these groups in recent years," according to Charles Roselle, secretary of the Sunday School Board's National Student Ministries.

Topics for international students and their workers range from world religions to the role of Baptist Student Unions in ministering to international students. Glenn Igleheart, director of the Department of Interfaith Witness, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, will lead a weeklong study of

comparative world religions.

Both Student Weeks, Roselle explained, begin a year-long student emphasis on internationalism, with special attention also being given to Bible study and social action in 1977-78.

An On-to-College seminar designed for high school seniors and recent graduates will be offered for the first time this year. Youth will discuss subjects such as personal relationships, campus morals and academic life in the special sessions, and will participate in many regular sessions of Student Week.

A seminar for church workers is planned to help leaders involve students in meaningful ministry through the local church. Church staff members, lay workers, representatives of churches with potential student ministries and students in leadership positions are invited to attend.

Other special-interest seminars focus on social issues such as transcendental meditation and the Unification Church from the Christian perspective. Also, a series of seminars called "Black Religious Experience" will deal with ministry to students on black campuses and cross-cultural communication between races.

State Baptist conventions, Hazelwood said, currently are working to reach the attendance goal of 2,000 students at Ridgecrest, including a large number of internationals. The goal is more than double last year's Student Week attendance.

Reservations may be made by writing Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, N. C. 28770. A \$15 conference services fee should accompany each request.

Youth Ministers To Meet In Nashville

NASHVILLE — Popular Christian humorist Grady Nutt will be among featured guests participating in the first National Conference on Youth Ministry here April 25-28 at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and First Baptist Church.

More than 800 ministers of youth and other youth leaders are expected to attend the meeting, which is sponsored by youth-related sections of several Sunday School Board departments, the WMU's Acteens department and the Brotherhood Commission's Pioneer department.

Registrations for the conference are still being accepted: the \$55 fee for one person or \$80 for husband and wife should be sent to Bob R. Taylor, Church Administration Department, Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Ave., North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

"The Student" To Add Three Summer Issues

NASHVILLE — The Student magazine, a periodical which contains ideas for personal growth and campus ministry for college students, will increase from nine to 12 issues each year, beginning with the July 1977 issue.

According to Charles Roselle, secretary of National Student Ministries at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, special features in summer issues will highlight ways to make the summer months rewarding and productive for Christian young adults.

The new issues also will include selections such as the annual "On to College" emphasis to help prepare college-bound high school seniors for the fall months.

Additional issues of The Student will continue seven regular features, including "How to Become a Christian" and "Thinking About Marriage."

The July 1977 issue, the first new issue, provides an indication of the content of future summer issues.

Through extensive use of photographs, a special feature entitled "What Is BSU?" will give information on Southern Baptist campus ministries throughout the country.

"Moving On" is the first in a three-part series that deals with change. Articles focus on graduation, severing of traditional ties and challenges that may be faced for the first time in college.

The Student may be ordered from the materials services department, 127 Ninth Ave., North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

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Mississippi College Beauties

Suellen McPhail, center, was selected Miss Mississippi College recently in competition held on the campus. Finalists are, left to right, include Alisa Johnston, 1st runner up; Pam Mitchell, 2nd runner up; Suellen McPhail; Mary Leigh Coleman, 3rd runner up; and Lisa Vickery, 4th runner up. (M. C. Photo by Ronnie Killebrew)



Three Carey School of Music faculty members look over lists of former students in order to make plans for the music emphasis March 26, Homecoming. Clemon Downs, Helen McWhorter, and Josephine D'Arpa will greet all returning music alumni on March 25, at 6 p.m. with a supper party and rehearsal program for a choir presentation to be given on Saturday.

Attention Will Center On Music Alumni At Wm. Carey Homecoming

William Carey College's music alumni will be the center of attention this year at the March 26 Homecoming. Former students who were involved in any choral activity at all while students on the campus have been urged to return on Homecoming Eve for a 6 p.m. supper party and giant rehearsal.

Donald Winters, dean of the school of music, will direct the unique choir in preparing a concert to be presented at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 26, for the entire gallery of alumni visitors.

Hundreds of alumni are expected for

the Saturday Homecoming activities, which will begin with registration at Thomas Fine Arts Building at 10 a.m. The annual homecoming banquet will be held at 12:30. The "Outstanding Alumnus of the Year" award plus additional recognitions will be presented. Bobbye Wood, Miss Mississippi (a Carey student) will be the featured entertainer. At 3 p.m. the Homecoming Queen and her Court will be presented on the baseball field during the Crusader double header with Auburn at Montgomery. Reservations for the banquet must be made in advance.

Clarke Plans Guest Day For April 2

Spring Guest Day — "College for a Day" — at Clarke College will this year be on Saturday, April 2. Registration will begin on 8:30 a.m. at the college library.

President W. L. Compere; Phil Spigner, SBA vice-president; and Allen Parnell, director of admission will be in the Fine Arts Building at 10:30 to welcome visiting students from high schools across the state. John Wilson, BSU president, will preside at the 10:45 singspiration. The Clarke College Chorus will present "The Clown" at 11:15.

Herbert Valentine, business manager, will be available to answer questions about financial aid from 12 to 12:20.

Following lunch in the cafeteria, Clarke will play Meridian Junior College in a baseball game that starts at 1:30.

The night before Guest Day, Clarke College Singers and other groups will provide entertainment from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday night's activities will begin with a singspiration at 6.

Off The Record

"No man is so well known as he thinks he is," once said Enrico Caruso, the world-famous tenor. "While motoring in New York State," continued the great singer, "the automobile broke down and I sought refuge in a farm-house while the car was being repaired. I became friendly with the farmer, who asked me my name and I told him it was Caruso."

"The farmer leaped to his feet and seized me by the hand. 'Little did I think I would see a man like you in this here humble kitchen, sir!' he exclaimed. 'Caruso, The great traveler, Robinson Caruso!'"

THE RELIGION OF PRESIDENT CARTER

A dynamic analysis of Carter's religion and how it will effect his presidency by Niels C. Nielson, Jr. 128 pages 5 1/2" x 8" quality paper-back, No. 5621-6 at \$2.95. Order from SMO Christian Publications—Ent. 2216 E. Harris Dept. BR-127, Pasadena, Texas 77506.

Snow In March For Gulf Coast BSU

A group of students and Jimmy Davis, BSU director from the Gulf Coast, have returned from a Ski Bible Retreat at Glorieta, N. M. The group toured San Antonio, Texas and had a worship service on the lawn of the Alamo. They also toured Carlsbad Caverns. They enjoyed three days of skiing on the Santa Fe Ski Basin. The evenings were filled with Bible study led by Kirby Clark of Southwestern Seminary. "The group returned with a new awareness of the love and beauty of Jesus Christ," states Davis. Those attending from the Jackson County Campus were: Carolyn Lee and Bryan Campbell; from the Jeff Davis Campus were: George Triggs, Ricky Lizana, Sherrie Woodcock, Charmaine Duncan, and Liz Pigott; and those from the Perkinson Campus were: Brenda Jones, Richard Shepard, Marsha McMillan, Bill West, Regina Hammond, Charles Street, and Jimmy Davis, BSU director for the three campuses of the Gulf Coast Junior College.

BMC Spring Festival First April Weekend

During the alumnae luncheon in Ray Dining Hall President Harold Fisher will announce the selection for Alumna of the Year.

The Spring Festival program will be presented in Modena Lowrey Berry Auditorium at 3:30 p.m. Pamela Adair, senior daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Kenny Adair of New Albany, will be crowned Queen by President Fisher. Gerry Jones of Coffeeville, also a senior, will be Maid of Honor. The Spring Festival playlet program will be presented by the junior class and their sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ludlow.

On the preceding day, Friday, April 1, ministerial alumni will gather on the campus of Blue Mountain for their annual meeting. These men are invited to bring their wives for the day's activities. In the morning a special address will be given in the chapel by an alumnus. Special music and a speaker will be heard at the luncheon program in Ray Dining Hall.

At 3 p.m. on April 1, there will be a

meeting of the Blue Mountain College National Alumnae Executive Board in the private dining area of Ray Dining Hall.

In Whitfield Hall Faculty Room, at 6:30 p.m., April 1, there will be a reception honoring the reunion classes for the 1977 college annual Alumnae Association Meeting and Spring Festival. These honored classes are 1917, 1927, 1942, 1952, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1972, and 1976.

At 8 p.m., April 1 and 2, in Garrett Auditorium on the campus, Blythe Spirit, the spring production, will be given.

Saturday, April 2, will be Alumnae Spring Festival and "play" day at Blue Mountain College.

At 9 a.m. alumnae will register in the foyer of the administration building. This will be followed by the alumnae business session in the auditorium, presided over by Jean Lipsey Cotey of Murfreesboro, Tn., president of the Alumnae Association.

Spiritual Growth Is Goal Of Popular Campus Retreat

NASHVILLE — More than 75 Spiritual Journey retreats are scheduled on college campuses during 1977, which is an increase of almost 200 percent over previous years.

Milt Hughes, campus evangelism consultant for National Student Ministries of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, attributes the increased popularity of the Spiritual Journey retreats to a "need among students for training in the disciplines of Bible study, prayer and witnessing." Hughes, assisted by 20 trained associates, will coordinate 77 weekend retreats across the country, using the format in the Spiritual Journey notebook. The 260-page looseleaf notebook is primarily designed for individuals interested in deeper spiritual growth.

Divided into nine sections, the Spiritual Journey notebook includes a study on books of the Bible, a personal Spiritual Journal, Scripture memory exercises and a plan for sharing Christ with other persons.

Continued use of the notebook after the retreat is an important factor, Hughes said. Instruction during the retreat gives an individual the basic tools for a consistent, meaningful program of spiritual growth.

However, the notebook may be used by persons other than students, since the disciplines emphasized in the Spiritual Journey notebook are basic concerns of all Christians.

Hughes began developing the Spiritual Journey notebook from his personal system of Bible study during high school. The material was compiled, tested on 24 students across the nation in 1973-74 and ultimately published by the Sunday School Board.

Available from the materials services department, 127 Ninth Ave., North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234, the Spiritual Journey notebook (including the binder) is item No. 2455-5 on the church literature order form. For the filler only, order item No. 2456-3.

Years ago the British had as their motto: "The sun never sets on the British Empire." This is no longer true, but Southern Baptists can joyfully say, "the sun never sets on the Cooperative Program dollar." My thought is that when I give through the Cooperative Program, a part of my life is at work ministering in the name of Christ all over the world. Through my gifts I can preach in Africa, heal the sick in India, teach in a Bible school in Israel, and be in a hundred other places at the same time. —W. Ches Smith, III.



Dress A Child At Easter —1977

A GOOD GIFT:

Write or telephone us. Request sizes on a child in the age group of your choice. You may sew or shop as you choose and mail or deliver the clothing.

A BETTER GIFT:

Write or telephone us. Request our staff to take a child shopping for you. A better fit is insured and the child's own tastes are considered \$50.00 will dress a child of 10 years or less; \$60.00 will dress a child from 10 to 14 years; \$70.00 will dress a high schooler; \$80.00 will dress a college youth.

THE BEST GIFT:

Make a cash gift to our "Dress A Child At Easter" Fund. Help us dress EVERY Child at the Village in church clothing for spring and summer and help us underwrite our costly clothing and shoe budget for the entire year.

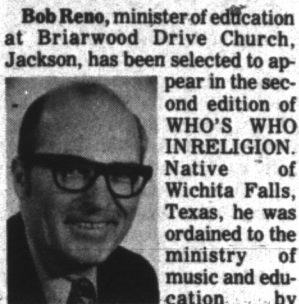
We need your help on the Jackson Campus, on the Farrow Manor Campus in Tate County, and at the Satellite home in New Albany.

The Baptist Children's Village
Box 11308—Delta Station
Jackson, Mississippi 39213
Telephone—922-2242

Names In The News



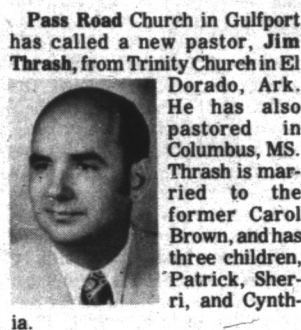
MISSISSIPPIANS J. Roy McComb (center) and Tommy Woodard (right) confer with seminary President Landrum Leavell during the recent meeting of NOBTS state alumni presidents. McComb is President of the New Orleans Seminary Alumni from Mississippi and Tommy Woodard of Sardis, is a second year Master of Religious Education student at NOBTS.



Bob Reno, minister of education at Briarwood Drive Church, Jackson, has been selected to appear in the second edition of **WHO'S WHO IN RELIGION**. Native of Wichita Falls, Texas, he was ordained to the ministry of music and education by Meadow Lane Church in Arlington, Texas. He has served as music, youth, education director and administrator in churches in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. He is married to the former Inez Townsend of Harpersville, and they are the parents of three daughters and one son. Louis Smith is the pastor of Briarwood Drive.

Jim Kirkland has been chosen to appear in **Who's Who in Religion**, second edition. A former pastor of Philadelphia Church (Webster), he was on the faculty of Jones Junior College before entering the ministry. He graduated from William Carey, did graduate study at USM, and received the MRE and M.Div. degrees from New Orleans Seminary. He and his family live at Vicksburg. He is available for pastorate, interim, and supply preaching. His address is Route 8, 107 Burnie Drive, Vicksburg, Ms. 39180 (phone 638-7247).

Former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board executive secretary - treasurer Courts Redford has been taken to his daughter's home after suffering a heart attack. Redford, who retired in 1964 after 11 years with the board, is president emeritus of Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, Mo. His daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Tetters of Bolivar, says Redford may receive cards and letters at her home: Route 3, Bolivar, 65613.

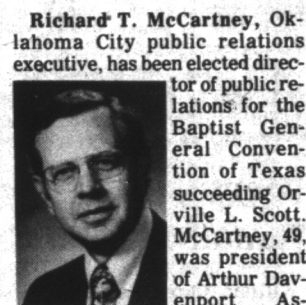


Pass Road Church in Gulfport has called a new pastor, **Jim Thrash**, from Trinity Church in El Dorado, Ark. He has also pastored in Columbus, MS. Thrash is married to the former Carol Brown, and has three children, Patrick, Sherri, and Cynthia.

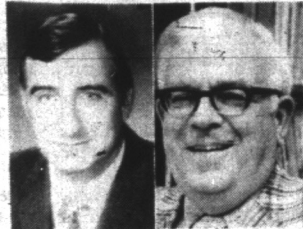


Robert E. Naylor, right, president of Southwestern Seminary, greets Mississippi State Alumni President **J. M. Wood**, center, minister of music at Broadmoor, Jackson to the fifth annual meeting of the seminary's State Alumni Presidents. **Lavena Brown**, left, pastor, First Church, Norman, Okla., is national alumni association president. Thirty state presidents met on the Fort Worth campus recently to plan state alumni meetings for the seminary's 34,000 alumni and to learn more about the seminary's current expansion plans.

percentage of missions giving at his church. He and Mrs. Thames were former employees of the Baptist Standard. He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Carey L. Thames; two sons, Barney Thames Jr. of Dallas and Billy Thames of Deer Park; a brother; three sisters; and four grandchildren.



Richard T. McCartney, Oklahoma City public relations executive, has been elected director of public relations for the Baptist General Convention of Texas succeeding Orville L. Scott. McCartney, 49, was president of Arthur Davenport Associates, Inc. for the past nine years and was BGCT director of public relations from 1962-68. Scott was named director of news and information for the BGCT PR department. (BP) PHOTO



Joseph W. Hinkle, left, secretary, Family Ministry Department, Sunday School Board, will be banquet speaker July 15 as the Eastern Baptist Religious Education Association convenes at Ridgecrest, N. C., for its 32nd annual meeting. Theme for the two-day session is "The Minister of Education as a Professional." **Perry Q. Langston**, right, professor of religious education at Campbell College and president of EBREA, has announced. Persons wishing specific information of this year's session may write to Dr. Langston at Campbell College, Buies Creek, N. C. 27506, or to Ridgecrest. Reservations will be made directly through the Reservation Office, Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, P. O. Box 128, Ridgecrest, N. C. 28770.

ALC Gives Most To ABS In 1976

NEW YORK (BP) — Southern Baptists were second in contributions to the American Bible Society (ABS) at year-end 1976, marking the first time since 1963 the 12.9 million member denomination was not first in giving to the Bible distribution agency.

The American Lutheran Church (ALC) finished 1976 in the number one spot with total contributions of \$343,627, almost four times what they gave in 1975, according to an ABS report released here.

Southern Baptists gave \$275,631 in 1976, an increase of \$37,077 over 1975, and United Methodists ranked third with \$143,405, for a \$10,812 increase.

Southern Baptists were first reported to be running second in ABS contributions in September, 1976, when the ALC topped all givers.

The ALC increase, an ABS spokesman told Baptist Press back in September, was due to an oversubscription of an ALC missions appeal, which resulted in a special \$245,000 grant to the society.

Overall, seventy-six denominations and other sources contributed \$1,739,194, compared with \$1,453,920 in 1975. Major amounts came also from the Bible-a-Month Club, \$134,110; Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, \$96,607; chaplains, \$92,803; miscellaneous, \$84,539; Lutheran Church in America (LCA), \$72,445; the American Baptist Churches in the USA, \$56,248; Church in the Nazarene, \$48,337; Seventh Day Adventists, \$45,165; United Presbyterian Church in the USA, \$35,707; Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), \$37,256; Menonite Church, \$32,482.

Martha Branham To Give Concert

Martha Branham, of Dallas, Texas, recording artist and widely-known soprano soloist, will be presented in concert at Calvary Church in Jackson, Sunday, Mar. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Joe H. Tuten, pastor, said that she will also render a vocal solo at the 10:30 morning service, with the public invited to both services.

Mrs. Branham will be in Jackson as feature soloist for the Mississippi Baptist Bible Conference to be at Calvary March 28-29.

Now artist in residence at Southern Methodist University, she has served as featured soloist on the program of the Southern Baptist Convention on at least seven occasions.

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Our Church And The Cooperative Program

By **Larry Kennedy**, Pastor
First, Amory

During the Vietnam War United States Air Force pilots discovered that the F-4 Phantom was too big and heavy to dogfight the lighter and more agile Russian MIG-17s.—19s and 21s with consistent success. About this time the Russians unveiled the MIG-25, commonly called the "Foxbat." This plane could fly at 2,000 m.p.h. at an altitude of 80,000 feet. It was obvious that the Russians were superior in the air.

To counteract the Soviet success in the air, General Dynamics developed for the U. S. Air Force the F-16. This unique jet can accelerate from a standing start through the speed of sound in less than 40 seconds. It can attain an altitude of 40,000 feet in 90 seconds. One pilot contended that it "can turn on a dime." Another pilot simply described it as a "moon rocket with wings." With the capability of firing 100 20-mm. shells a second, the United States Air Force once again has a plane that is superior to anything the enemy might throw against it.

As Southern Baptists we have several weapons in the Christian com-

munity with which to fight the devil and the forces of evil. One such weapon is the Cooperative Program. By pooling our resources under the umbrella of the Cooperative Program, we are able to strike with force against spiritual ignorance, hunger, disease, and a thousand other disorders that the devil uses to afflict the human race. Without a doubt the forces of evil must be deeply disturbed that Southern Baptists have had the insight to launch a world mission program under the banner of the Cooperative Programs.

The First Baptist Church of Amory is committed to this world mission thrust. In 1977 the congregation from Amory will give \$45,000 to world missions through the Cooperative Program. This represents 23% of the total church budget. With God's help, we intend to do our part in the support of world missions.

First Baptist, Amory, was 19th in the state in per-capita giving through the Cooperative Program in 1976. They gave a total of \$38,378.67, an increase of \$4,974.20 over 1975, or \$49.20 per member.

Missionaries On Furlough

Missionaries now on furlough in Mississippi are:

Frances and R. T. Buckley, Bangladesh, 921 Jackson, Columbia; **Mary Alice Ditsworth**, Indonesia, 4610 Orchard Road, Pascagoula; **Elizabeth and Charles Ray**, Thailand, 117 Oak Drive, Brandon; **Parke and Martha Ellen Marler**, Guam, 715 East Northside Drive, Jackson; **Jim and Carolyn McAtee**, Indonesia, 2334 Coronet Place, Jackson;

Edd and Freda Trott, Brazil, 208 East Main St., Clinton; **Bill and Carolyn Smith**, Brazil, 3331 Old Canton Road, Jackson; **Mary Jo Stewart**,

Ecuador, Edgewood Terrace, Apartment E-11, 220 Edgewood Terrace, Jackson;

Rachel DuBard, Liberia, Route 1, Carrollton (she is leaving this month); **Steve and Minnie Hicks**, Mexico, 100 Georgia Avenue, Hattiesburg; **Charles and Indy Whitten**, Spain, 1625 Easy Street, Yazoo City.

Two couples arriving in March are **J. D. and Ethel Batson**, Brazil, and **James and Dorothy Gilbert**, Ecuador. The Batsons will stay until June and the Gilberts until August. In May, **Stanley and Glenna Stamps** will be arriving in the States from Nicaragua, for a year's furlough.

Freedoms Foundation Cites "MasterControl"

FORT WORTH (BP) — "MasterControl", a half-hour radio production of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, has received a George Washington Distinguished Service Award from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, Pa.

The program, syndicated on 642 stations across the country, is produced for the Radio and Television Commission by Charles Yates and has won five Distinguished Service Awards since he became producer in 1972.

The program was lauded for "outstanding accomplishment in helping achieve a better understanding of America and Americans."

A group of the weekly "MasterControl" programs were submitted for judging. They included a Bicentennial program, presenting a philosophical portrait of news commentator Paul Harvey, and interviews with Hollywood actress Jane Withers, Baylor

University football coach Grant Teaff, and Jeannette Clift George, the actress who played Corrie Ten Boom in "The Hiding Place."

Other programs included a visit to the Wright Brothers Memorial for National Aviation Month, an observance of the 40th anniversary of the game of Monopoly, and a program on alcohol. The alcohol program featured actor Dick Van Dyke and baseball's Don Newcombe who told what damage alcoholism had done to their lives.

"MasterControl" began in 1959 as a religious show, patterned after a popular variety show and featuring music and interviews.

Besides previous Freedoms Foundation Awards, "MasterControl" has received numerous industry awards. These include plaudits from UNDA-USA, formerly the 25-year-old Catholic Association of Broadcasters, and a 3-Star Award of Merit from the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Jubilees Offer Mission Opportunities Information

NASHVILLE — "Serve the Lord with Gladness" is the theme for the senior adult Spring Jubilees May 2-6 and May 9-13 at Ridgecrest Conference Center.

"The Spring Jubilees are for in-depth study and training for service in a particular area," according to **Adelle Carlson**, senior adult consultant in the family ministry department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. "We're trying to tap the resources we have among the retired."

These conferences, sponsored by the family ministry department of the board, will not take the place of the senior adult Chautauquas, which are held in the fall at Glorieta and Ridgecrest Conference Centers. The Chautauquas focus on spiritual enrichment, according to **Miss Carlson**.

The week-long Jubilees will have identical schedules. Mornings will be spent in workshops and study groups, with afternoons reserved for field trips and lab experiences to complement morning sessions.

Other workshop topics include: music, drama, Bible teaching, creative writing, media center service, hand crafts, nature crafts and discipleship training. A separate leadership lab has been designed for senior adult leaders and workers.

Winston Pearce, Buie's Creek, N. C., will be the main speaker for the nightly worship services.

Cost of the Jubilee is \$71 for each person with two to a room, or \$94 with

one to a room. Reservations should be mailed to Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, N. C. 28770. Enclose \$25, part of the total cost, for each reservation and indicate for which week the reservation is requested.

AJLOUN, Jordan — "Love is the bond that unites us and unifies us," stated **Fawwaz Omeish** at the bi-annual meeting of the Jordan Baptist Convention held recently in the First Baptist Church here. Omeish was reelected chairman of the convention. He expressed appreciation to the Southern Baptist Mission for its aids in personal service, counseling and financial assistance, and for the spirit of cooperation which "exists harmoniously" between the convention and the mission.

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Baptist Church Requests Government Housing Loan

MEMPHIS (BP) — Construction of a 125-unit high rise complex for senior citizens, costing \$4 million, will get underway this fall in midtown here under auspices of Union Avenue Baptist Church if funding is approved.

The congregation of the Union Avenue church approved plans for construction of the 10-story tower on church-owned property at the rear of the church building and requested a 40-year, 100 percent pay-back loan from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Lee Prince, pastor of Union Avenue, explained that church leaders had been looking for such a ministry for more than two years.

"Our position is that the church should actively try to meet human needs, and the need for more housing for senior citizens in Memphis is great."

All 125 units will be one-bedroom apartments, complete with a separate living area, private bath and furnished kitchen. They will be open to all qualified person regardless of race, color or religion, Prince said.

About 80 percent of the residents of

Union Avenue Baptist Tower may be persons who qualify for assistance under the rent subsidy program of HUD, Prince said.

The rent subsidy program requires qualified low income persons to pay a maximum of 25 percent of their income on rent, with HUD paying the balance.

A non-profit corporation called Union Avenue Baptist Housing Ministries, Inc., will build and manage the complex. It is comprised of seven of

the congregation's 2,148 members. Construction will take 18 months.

Prince said he expected no church-state relationship problems to evolve out of the project.

"The kind of cooperation in this project between a group sponsored by a Southern Baptist church and a government agency in meeting human needs does not violate the independence of either the church or state," Prince said.

Center Of Urban Studies Begins As Pilot Project

WASHINGTON (BP) — Twenty-five students from three Southern Baptist seminaries, state convention offices and pastorates kicked-off the Urban Studies Center here, according to James O. Duncan, resident coordinator.

The Urban Studies Center, an off-

campus pilot project sponsored by Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., is being planned for one year to gather facts as to whether this type of program is needed in the future.

Utilizing the facilities of the Capitol Hill Metropolitan Baptist Church, classes in the first phase of the project will meet on Mondays for 15 weeks from January to May 1977.

The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is funding five interns who are working on their master of divinity degrees. One intern has been assigned for each of the following programs: Christian social ministries of the D. C. Baptist Convention, work with a downtown church in Alexandria, Va., evangelism in a transitional community in a church on Capitol Hill, structures and outreach ministry of a Baptist association with both rural and urban settings, and developing a mission church in a suburban community.

Eleven of the 25 students are working on their doctor of ministries degrees and nine are pursuing continuing education studies.

Faculty members for the pilot project include: Thomas A. Bland, professor of Christian ethics and sociology, Southeastern Seminary; Allan P. Neely, professor of missions, Southeastern Seminary; Roy E. Godwin, outreach director for the Montgomery Baptist Association in Maryland; and Stan L. Hasty, associate director for denominational services, Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Washington, D. C.

SBC Annuity Board Notes 1976 Advances

DALLAS (BP) — The year 1976 will go down in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board as "one of the most important years in the areas of new policies and plans affecting retirement annuities," Darold H. Morgan, board president, told trustees attending the agency's 59th annual meeting here.

In addition to hearing Morgan's report, the trustees honored two staff members, Frank Durham and Owen Henley, with a retirement dinner and heard speeches by James L. Sullivan, Southern Baptist Convention president, and Don Conlan, Los Angeles economist.

Morgan pointed to "substantive changes in the church and agency retirement plans which we believe make them innovative, marketable and fully geared to meet the needs of our constituency for many years to come."

He explained the Annuity Board launched a new "fixed income" retirement fund January 1, 1977, and continued preparations to open a new retirement plan for Southern Baptist ministers and church employees Jan. 1, 1978.

He also told trustees the board's church insurance plans were "fully evaluated with far-ranging administrative changes resulting."

Changes in church insurance plans resulted in an overall premium increase of 15 percent — a figure significantly less than the 35 percent feared imminent last October, he said.

He said other key accomplishments include change in annuity rates from four to six percent, which means larger retirement benefits; issuance of the "13th check" to annuitants for the 11th time; and gearing up for a major communications thrust called "route 10," the "now way" for financial security for the new program.

In the report, the trustees learned funds held in trust (assets) again reached record proportions: \$472,218,669, an increase of more than \$71,066,728 over 1975.

The Annuity Board administers these funds for about 45,000 participants in church and agency retirement plans.

Income from premiums for retirement protection stood at a record \$42,190,990, up \$5,811,912 from 1975. Investment income reached \$41,393,317. This figure, too, represents a record, up from \$23,149,064 last year.

In 1976, benefits paid to retirees, the disabled and widows amounted to a record \$17,138,343. Church and agency life insurance volume of \$508,190,950 topped last year's total by \$71.5 mil-

lion. In the report, Morgan noted the board added 840 new annuitants to its rolls in 1976. There were 429 age, 162 widow, and 84 disability annuitants, as well as 74 education beneficiaries and 91 who received child benefits.

Emphasizing promotion of the new church retirement program last year, the church area of the development division reported applications for participation in the Family Benefit Section totaled 1,958 ministers. A total of 457 new churches enrolled in the program, while 2,223 persons upgraded their retirement plans. Forty-one students were enrolled in the seminarian

retirement plan at the end of 1976. In the agency area of the development division, accounts totaled \$19,848,016, an increase of more than \$2 million above last year.

The insurance services department said it took steps to improve service to policy holders last year, particularly in its response to claim inquiries. The area also reported the addition of dental benefits to the comprehensive medical coverage the Annuity Board administers for employees.

In the investment area, bonds, stocks and other related securities produced \$27,127,818, while mortgage loans yielded income of \$9,267,230. Real estate provided \$4,988,269 in income.

Real estate investments make up 42.5 percent of the total investment portfolio. Stocks comprise 39.5 percent. The rest is in collateral loans, bonds and short-term securities.

Devotional

Life With A New Look

By Bobby C. Perry, Pastor, First Church, Moss Point.

Tremendous changes come into our lives when we become Christians! As Paul shows us, it changes our attitude to life. "I am crucified with Christ" (Galatians 2:20). This is the bedrock fact of the Christian's position in Christ. We are one with Him. So when Christ died, he died in Him. Having been executed with Christ, God's law has no further claim on us; nor can divine judgment fall on us because of our sin.

This death opens up the way to new life. As crucifixion was not the end of existence for Christ, so it was not for Paul either. Life follows crucifixion. True, Paul has died, yet "nevertheless I live," he adds. As he has shared Christ's crucifixion so he has shared His resurrection. He was "alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:11). This new life is everlasting life, unique in quality as well as quantity.

REORDERED BY CONVERSION. Paul would have us understand exactly what he meant by his present life. It is no longer I who lives, he says, "but Christ liveth in me." The Christian no longer has self as the center of his life. He now makes Christ the center, and lives unto Him.

A violin virtuoso, having played his instrument to a vast Boston audience which he had held spellbound, was recalled again and again. On his final appearance, the musician held up his instrument and cried: "It is not I, it is that." We point away from ourselves to the Christ who died that we might live and declared that it is not we who live, but Christ who lives in us.

The new life is geared altogether differently from the old life: the life "which I now live in the flesh I live in faith," Paul tells us. Emphasis is on the word "now." This new life is since the beginning of his Christian life, "with an implied contrast with the life in the flesh before he was crucified with Christ."

CONTROLLED BY FAITH. What is this new controlling factor in life? Faith. While we appear to live as other men do, we in fact live quite differently; we are upheld by the principle of faith.

D. M. Panton comments: "Faith is now expanded into something much more permanent, much more continuously working, than the simple act of faith by which we are saved. Faith linked me to Christ, and faith keeps me chained; faith is the live wire which carries the current. I am not only justified by faith; I am kept by faith; I walk by faith; I overcome by faith. Hence the tremendous importance of believing all the Scriptures, that we may live them."

Now Paul's living by faith did not mean that life consisted of sitting still and waiting for something to happen. Few people were more active in serving God than the apostle. Faith in the Lord was the grounds of his work for the Lord.

The Christian life is a new life. We died to the old life. Now, Christ lives in us and that gives a new source of strength, joy and peace. Faith in the Lord is the principle by which we live. How incomparably better is this life in Christ than the old life!

the King of the Jews?" To Pilate's surprise, Jesus had nothing to say in his own defense.

Pilate was fully convinced that Jesus was innocent of any crime in the sight of the Roman law. To let Jesus go free would incur the bitter enmity of the Jewish leaders. That could well mean political suicide for Pilate. What, then, could he do?

It was the custom of the Roman governors in Judea to recognize the Passover season by granting release to a Jewish prisoner, allowing the people to name the individual who would be granted clemency. In fact, it appears that the crowd gathered to demand the annual custom. It seems that Pilate had already considered letting Barabbas, a well-known insurrectionist, go free. Evidently this was the man the crowd had chosen for release on that occasion.

Pilate thought he could condemn Jesus, thus he would satisfy the Jewish leaders, and then release him in accordance with the annual custom and, thus, ease his own conscience. But because the leaders and the High Priest stirred up the crowd, they would not hear of releasing Jesus.

Not knowing what to do, Pilate lamely asked the people, "What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews?" That was his decision, not theirs. In a wild frenzy, they shouted, "Crucify him" (v. 13).

One of the saddest statements in all the Bible is found in our lesson: "And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified" (v. 15). Through the centuries, Pilate has been judged as a man who did what was wrong because he did not have the courage to do what he knew to be right.

As a follower of Christ, one cannot see evil having its way and do nothing about it. Whatever the cost to us personally, we must take sides with God.

Pilate represents a person who may reject Christ by compromising principles in order to insure his own security. Many in our church are seeking security from their peer group or economic status. For a person to choose economic security rather than stand up for Christian principles is to do the same thing Pilate did.

There are pressures on every hand, and they are a threat to our security. We need to stop and look at the pressures. To the senior adult, the pressures may come from failing health or inadequate income. Only when one is totally committed to Christ will there be any real security that is found in God.

Pilate made his choice when he compromised the right in favor of personal security. Compromise is so easy for the person who does not have con-

victions. How do you think Pilate's decision was a moral compromise?

Senior Citizens Day At Bruce

Senior citizens day was observed at First Church, Bruce Sunday, March 5. The special observance featured a sermon by L. E. Gandy geared to the elderly, choir made up of senior citizens, and special recognition of oldest member present. All citizens 65 years and older were honored with flowers—boutonnieres for the men and mini corsages for the women. The special choir, made up altogether of older people and dubbed the Heaven-Bound Choir rendered two old hymns for special music. Minister of music, Mrs. Linda Ward said, "Our senior citizens are our most faithful attendance group in church: Unless they are sick, they are always here, regardless of the weather," she said. "They always give me a lift, when I get up to lead the singing on Sunday morning," she concluded.

Mexico City, Mexico — The Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary here reports a record enrollment of 108 students this year. Approximately 20 students will be graduated in April. This is the largest single graduating class in the history of the seminary, according to David P. Daniell, Southern Baptist representative.

Sunday School Lesson: Life and Work For March 27

Pilate — The Compromiser

By Bill Duncan, Long Beach, First Mark 15:1-15

The Sanhedrin (council) lost no time presenting their case to the Roman authorities. The trail at night had been an

illegal and an informal one. To make it legal and formal, the Sanhedrin held a consultation at daybreak and agreed upon the formal charges that they would place against Jesus, before the Roman governor.

They themselves had no power to carry out the death penalty. That had to be imposed by the Roman governor and carried out by the Roman authorities. It is from Luke that we learn how bitter the Jewish leaders were against Jesus. The charge at which they had arrived was a charge of blasphemy, of insulting God. But it was not the charge on which they brought Jesus before Pilate. They knew well that Pilate would have nothing to do with a religious argument. So they

charged Jesus with perverting the people, and forbidding them to give tribute to Caesar, and calling Himself a King. They knew the charge was a lie — and so did Pilate.

According to Mark, Pilate went straight to the religious idea by asking, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus gave him a strange answer. He said, "It is you who say so." He did not say yes or no. The answer implied, "I may have claimed to be the King of the Jews, but you know very well that the interpretation that my accusers are putting on that claim is not my interpretation. I am no political revolutionary. My Kingdom is a Kingdom of love."

Pilate went on to question Jesus more and the Jewish authorities went on to multiply their charges — Jesus answered nothing and remained completely silent.

Throughout the pages of history there are certain names that are always mentioned with contempt. This is true of Pilate. He is the supreme example of a man who plainly saw his duty but did not have the courage to

pursue it. And yet, it must be conceded that the Roman governor of Judea had a difficult role to fill that day when Jesus stood before him.

From bitter experience, Pilate had learned to fear the national fanaticism of the Jews. It is said that when he first took the office of governor (procurator) he was determined to rule the Jewish people with an iron hand. He was told that they would not tolerate images of any kind, nor the display of banners on which they had emblazoned the insignia of the emperor of Rome. Pilate was determined to teach the Jews a lesson. The Jews objected, he addressed them publicly and threatened them with death if they did not capitulate. In answer, the Jews fell on their faces before the Roman soldiers and "declared that they were ready to die rather than endure the violation of their laws." In desperation, Pilate yielded.

As he faced Jesus, Pilate realized that this case would be still a greater test of his ability of diplomacy. The charge was that Jesus looked upon himself as a king. That was treason, but was it true? To know exactly how matters stood, Pilate asked: "Art thou

Sunday School Lesson: International For March 27

The Way Of Responsible Stewardship

By Wm. J. Falls Mark 12:41-44; Luke 16:1-15, 19-31

Stewardship is not an elective; it is a required course. It is not a ritual for super-Christians; it is a way of living for all who accept Christ as Lord. It is not a merit badge to enhance one's standing; it is a tangible demonstration of one's love for God and compassion for his brothers. Jesus taught his disciples



the way of service, prayer, and forgiveness, and most church members expect sermons on these subjects. But many members fear that emphasizing stewardship would interfere with evangelism and make some members uncomfortable. Jesus was a realist, however, and he knew that a person's life commitment could be proved in his

stewardship, in the way he handled the money entrusted to him.

The Lesson Explained Stewardship Reveals Character (Luke 16:1-13)

Jesus had told the parable of the dishonest steward, which is not easy to interpret, and these sentences appear to emphasize the virtue of faithfulness in handling resources. The idea in verse 10 is that if a person deals honestly with small matters, you can trust him with the large; on the other hand, if he is a petty thief, he will probably commit grand larceny if he has a chance. In verse 11 "unrighteous mammon" is "worldly wealth"; if a person cannot be trusted with that (which is little), how can he be trusted with the "true riches" of God's gifts? Again, in verse 12, if a person has not been a good steward of things loaned him by God, how can he manage what will be his in the life to come?

Perhaps the weakness that Jesus

saw in most people was the attempt to live by two contrasting value systems. It was just as impossible as a slave trying to serve two masters equally well. Eventually, he would become quite loyal to one and turn against the other. We are so put together that we get mentally sick when we try to live with a double allegiance. Jesus said, "You cannot have both God and wealth as your master" (TEV). So our stewardship of things reveals both our character and the level of our loyalty to God.

God Judges By His Standards (Luke 16:14-15)

While Jewish scholars deny that Pharisees were "fond of money" (Moffatt), they very likely were impressed by people who had money, believing it was a sign of God's approval. Thus, they were unconsciously covetous. So they ridiculed Jesus' views of wealth and stewardship. Jesus responded vigorously, accusing them of

striving to look good in the eyes of men. But they could not hide their hearts from God.

Jesus Called A Small Gift Large (Mark 12:41-44)

This simple experience illustrates the principle stated in the previous paragraph: God and man have different standards of judgment. One day Jesus was sitting in the Temple where he could see people making their voluntary offerings to support his worship. The widow's "two mites" were the smallest Jewish coins and together were probably worth less than our penny. But Jesus told his disciples that her gift was larger than all the other gifts. "For the others put in what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, put in all she had — she gave all she had to live on" (TEV).

In other words, Jesus was saying that God is not as interested in the actual monetary value of a gift as he is in the spirit of the giver.



The Eighth Avenue Church of Meridian recently honored senior adults at a banquet held at Holiday Inn South. Certificates of appreciation or other appropriate gifts were presented to the following: J. T. Morgan, for serving 36 years as an active deacon; Mrs. J. T. Morgan and Mrs. Helen Zachary, for being active members of Eighth Avenue for approximately 55 years; Mrs. Ludie Collins, for serving as Sunday School teacher in Eighth Avenue for approximately 40 years; Mr. and Mrs. John Collins, for being married 55 years; Mrs. Bertha Gunn, for best attendance at Sunday School and church for 1976; Mrs. Eunice Crenshaw, for being the oldest member present (82); Jimmie Pruitt, the second newest deacon in Eighth Avenue; Jimmie Gossett, the most recently ordained deacon in Eighth Avenue (not shown in photo). Front row, l to r: J. T. Morgan, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Zachary, Mrs. Ludie Collins, Mrs. John Collins, Mrs. Bertha Gunn, Mrs. Eunice Crenshaw. Back row: Pruitt, John Collins, Beanie Boone is pastor.